

Rabin says U.S. aid is assured

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Thursday he believed the United States would maintain aid to his country at current levels for at least the next two years despite a proposal by a key Republican senator to reduce it. "I believe that for this fiscal year, the budget is approved and unless there will be cuts, which I hope will not take place, there will be a continuation," Rabin told reporters after a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker.

"When it comes to fiscal year '91, I have the reasons to believe there will be no reduction in the support to Israel," he added.

Israel receives \$3 billion from Washington in economic and military aid each year, making it by far the biggest recipient of U.S. assistance.

But a proposal earlier this week from Senate Republican leader Bob Dole to cut aid to Israel and other major recipients so more money could be given to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe came as a nasty shock to Israeli leaders.

The Bush administration said it backed the principle of having more flexibility in distributing aid instead of having much of its aid budget earmarked in advance for specific countries. But the proposal to cut assistance to Israel has garnered scant support in Congress.

Rabin reported that he had received an assurance from Defence Secretary Dick Cheney that military aid of \$1.8 billion would be maintained. But sources close to his delegation said the message he had received from Washington was not totally reassuring.

The sources said senior administration officials warned Rabin Wednesday that U.S. military procurement in general would fall sharply in the next few years as the threat from the Soviet Union diminished and this would mean fewer U.S. orders for Israel's key military industries.

New confrontation over PLO at WHO

GENEVA (AP) — The stage has been set in the World Health Organisation (WHO) for a new confrontation over the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) bid for the State of Palestine to become a full-fledged U.N. member.

The agency's 31-nation executive board agreed without vote Thursday to put off pending further "study" a decision on a proposal by WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima to postpone until October or November the WHO's annual assembly, now set for May.

Thus, the assembly will consider once again Palestine's application to be admitted as the 167th WHO member nation. Last year, following a U.S. threat to cut off funding, the assembly voted to defer a decision on the issue until 1990.

Nakajima argued that the 16-nation health assembly often had been "the first available testing ground for measuring the reactions of governments to certain controversial political issues," not necessarily raising legitimate health concerns.

He said this could be avoided by moving it to the fall, when the U.N. General Assembly already is in session in New York.

"Delegates would thus be encouraged to refer political matters directly to the U.N. General Assembly or to other forums," he said in a report to the executive board, which did not refer specifically to the Palestine issue.

But opposition to the proposal,

"The warning was clear — the U.S. market is shrinking for everybody, including us," one source said.

This could also affect Israeli cooperation in Washington's strategic defence initiative (SDI) — former President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" programme — which appears to be falling out of favour with the Bush administration. Israeli participation in SDI projects has given it access to valuable state-of-the-art technology and research resources.

Rabin said he had argued that while the military threat to the United States may have diminished, the "threat" to Israel was just as acute as before.

"I raised the needs of Israel to continue to maintain the same level of support to Israel because when it comes to the Middle East, the glass is not seen there," he said.

"The Soviet Union continues to supply arms to the radical Arab countries — Libya, Syria and Iraq — and in '89 there was even an increase in the flow of arms quantitatively and qualitatively to these three countries... in view of all this we believe that we deserve the continuation of the level of support that we get," Rabin contended.

In addition, he argued, Israel had to absorb thousands of Soviet Jews flocking to its shores every month and this had become a major burden on its finances.

Some Congress members have argued that the United States is in no position to turn down Israeli requests for additional help to settle the newcomers since it has itself effectively closed its doors to all but a small minority of those wishing to leave the Soviet Union.

But Washington is likely to react strongly if it becomes clear that Israel is channelling immigrants to new settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.



This photograph released by the Iranian news agency IRNA shows a man from Soviet Azerbaijan using an inflated tube to cross the Araks River into Iran.

Thousands of Azeris cross into Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Thousands of women, children and elderly Soviet Azerbaijanis fleeing ethnic violence crossed the border into Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Friday.

The news came as Moscow appealed for an end to clashes in its Caucasus republics between predominantly Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians in which more than 70 people have been killed.

The state-run Iranian agency said the Soviet Shi'ite Muslims crossed the land border into the Iranian town of Bilehsavar, 200 kilometres southwest of Baku.

Unlike previous cases in which Soviet Azerbaijanis swam the Araks River which forms the border farther west of visits to Iran, the latest arrivals appeared to consist of refugees.

The report, monitored in Cyprus, did not specify how many Soviet Muslims crossed the border into Iran Friday, but said 5,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis arrived in Bilehsavar Thursday.

The agency said women, children and the elderly made up most of the border crossers since Thursday, indicating they were fleeing the violence across the frontier.

The Soviet Shi'ite Muslims share a common language, culture and religion with Iranian Azerbaijanis across the border, who constitute about a third of Iran's 55 million people.

Soviet Azerbaijanis demanding an open border, free

travel between and heightened links with their brethren on the Iranian side started crossing over into Iran in pairs or small groups earlier this month.

But the crossing escalated when a simmering feud between the mostly Muslim Soviet Azerbaijanis and the Christian Armenians erupted last week after a group of Azerbaijanis went on the rampage in Baku against Armenians living there.

IRNA reported Thursday that more than 400 Soviet Muslims who had crossed into Iran recently returned back home by boat across the Araks River.

Sahran Chubin, an analyst at Geneva's Graduate Institute of International Affairs, said earlier this week: "There's a danger that if the Soviet Azerbaijanis engage Soviet troops, and use Iran as a sanctuary, they may embroil their cousins in Iran in their fight."

Nationalists in Soviet Azerbaijan are agitating for the establishment of a "greater Azerbaijan," an independent, oil-rich homeland for some 20 million Azerbaijanis on both sides of the border.

Ever since Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979, Moscow has been fearful of the effect on the 50 million Muslims who live in the southern Soviet republics.

Now, in the fallout from the reformist zeal sweeping Eastern

Europe, Azerbaijan is erupting.

Israel says Soviet Jews do not go to occupied lands

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel is seeking to allay international fears that it would direct Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories, releasing figures which it said showed almost none had settled there.

The foreign ministry said the figures, issued after Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's controversial statement Sunday that a "big Israel" was needed for Soviet Jews, were being sent to all its embassies.

The figures, compiled by the absorption ministry, covered the 12,700 Jews who arrived from the Soviet Union last year.

Israeli officials predict that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews will arrive over the next five to six years in light of Moscow's new free emigration policies and new U.S. restrictions on immigration.

The figures said 56 per cent of the 12,700 chose to settle in the Tel Aviv area, 30 per cent went to the port of Haifa and other parts of northern Israel and three per cent to areas of the arid south such as the Naqub desert.

Only 11 per cent settled in the Jerusalem area including neighbourhoods in and around Arab Jerusalem.

"Less than half a per cent went to the West Bank and Gaza," absorption ministry spokeswoman Ida Ben-Shitrit told Reuters.

But the absorption ministry acknowledged that immigrants tended to move during their first years in Israel and might eventually go to the occupied territories.

Right-wing Israelis view the anticipated exodus of Soviet Jews as an opportunity to counter the overwhelming Palestinian majority in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and ensure Israeli control.

About 70,000 Israelis now live in protected settlements among

the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied territories, not counting Arab Jerusalem.

Some Israelis are attracted by low-priced housing in the heavily subsidised settlements, but also have to contend with a lack of local jobs and the dangers of the 25-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The United States, which has been trying to organise Israeli-Palestinian talks on the future of the territories, criticised Shamir Wednesday for saying the "Biblical land of Israel" was needed to settle the Soviet immigrants.

Foreign ministry spokesman Baruch Bina said: "There is no connection between the emigration out of the Soviet Union and settlement in the territories."

The foreign ministry denied an Israeli newspaper report that a Soviet diplomat had warned of limits on emigration if Soviet Jews were settled in the West Bank.

"From the Soviet point of view, they are letting people of all nationalities leave the Soviet Union and once they leave they can't control where they go," said a foreign ministry official.

Fateh-Uprising's warning

A Palestinian group warned Moscow Thursday that its ties with Arabs would be harmed if it did not stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Abdul-Hadi Nashash, spokesman for the Fateh-Uprising, said in a statement that more than 35,000 Soviet Jews had reached Israel and the number would reach more than 100,000 in the near future.

"The continuation of the flow of Soviet Jewish immigrants would inflict serious harm to the traditional friendship which links the Arab peoples with the Soviet

Union... the continuation would enable the Zionist leaders to achieve their objective of building greater Israel."

Nashash said Palestinians would face mass expulsion from their towns and camps to give way for the new Soviet immigrants.

The Damascus-based Fateh-Uprising is led by Colonel Abu Musa who rebelled against Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in 1983.

Diplomats said the group's statement was a rare criticism of the Soviet Union which traditionally maintains good ties with Palestinian groups.

"It is not reasonable that the Soviet Union, the friend of Arabs and their causes, would resort to solving its internal problems at the expense of the main causes of the Arabs and Palestinians," Nashash said.

He appealed to Moscow to stop the exodus immediately and said continued flow of Jews to Israel was a "serious threat not only to Palestinians but to the whole Arab World."

'Reasons' for emigration

A Soviet Jewish leader said Thursday, fear of anti-Semitic outbursts, potential pogroms and possible political disintegration is driving tens of thousands of Jews out of the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Chlenov, co-chairman of the newly-formed Congress of Soviet Jewish Organisations, said in a speech in New York that there was "a feeling of fear and hysteria" among many Soviet Jews that is prompting many to emigrate to Israel.

"The true exodus of Soviet Jewry has already started," he told the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress.

Faisal awards announced

RIYADH (AP) — Sheikh Ali Al Tawazi, a prominent theologian in Saudi Arabia, and Dr. Khurshid Ahmad of Pakistan were jointly awarded the top prize of the annual King Faisal International Prize Committee Thursday.

The prize goes for services contributed in the field of Islam. Ahmad is head of the International Institute for Islamic Economy Studies at the University of Islamabad. University professors Muhammad Omar A. Shabir, a Saudi economic counsellor with the Saudi Monetary Agency, and Al Seddiq M. Al Darir, a Sudanese professor of Islamic law at the University of Khartoum, Sudan, shared the prize for Islamic studies for their studies on financial dealings as prescribed by Islam.

The elderly Egyptian short story writer Yahya Haqqi got the prize for Arabic literature, according to the list announced by Prince Khalid Al Faisal.

Professor Andre Capron, 59, of France, director of the Centre for Immunology of parasites at the Institut Pasteur in Lille, France, and Dr. Anthony Edward Butterworth, 44, of Britain, an associate lecturer at the department of Pathology, Cambridge University, shared the prize for medicine for their studies on parasitic diseases, specifically schistosomiasis.

Professor Raymond Urgel Lemieux, 69, a Canadian professor emeritus at the University of Alberta, Prof. Frank Albert Cotton, 58, of the department of chemistry at Texas A-and-M University, and Prof. Mustafa Anur Al Sayed of the United States shared the prize in science for their efforts in the field of chemistry.

The Faisal foundation was established by the eight sons of the late King Faisal.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sweden ups funding to UNRWA

NICOSIA (AP) — The Swedish government has upped its contribution to the United Nations programme for Palestinian refugees to more than \$21 million, a U.N. agency announced Thursday. The U.N. Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA), in a statement faxed to the Associated Press from its Vienna headquarters, said the Swedish contribution was 30 million krona (\$4.85 million) more than originally pledged for 1990. The donation of 130 million Swedish krona makes the Scandinavian nation the second largest contributor behind the United States to UNRWA. The U.S. has pledged \$50 million for 1990, down from \$67 million two years ago.

Police end day sit-in at Lebanese embassy

PARIS (R) — Police Friday peacefully evacuated 28 supporters of army chief Michel Aoun who had staged an eight-day sit-in at Lebanon's Paris embassy, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said. The protesters objected to the appointment of a new ambassador and attempts by Lebanon's Syrian-backed government to take control of the Paris mission. Police said they were evacuated about 5:30 a.m. A spokesman at the Foreign Affairs Ministry said Lebanese diplomats had asked for French assistance to end of sit-in.

Oil transfer from Iranian tanker hampered

ROTTERDAM (AP) — Dutch salvage crews were waiting for clear weather before transferring 200,000 tons of crude oil from a crippled Iranian tanker in the Atlantic, the salvaging company said. The Khark 5 lost 70,000 tons of Iranian light crude after a Dec. 19 explosion ripped a gaping hole in the vessel's hull. Before drifting seaward the resulting oil slick threatened Morocco's fisheries and beaches. The stricken ship, towed by three powerful tugs and accompanied by another Iranian tanker, the Shir Khoob, was located in international waters about 500 kilometres northwest of the Cap Verde islands off the West African coast, according to a spokeswoman for Smit Tak, the Dutch salvagers.

Iranian students threaten Britons

TEHRAN (R) — A radical Iranian student group has warned British citizens in Islamic countries and elsewhere would be in danger if it did not free jailed Iranian students. The militant former interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, joined the condemnation of Britain, saying its treatment of Iranian students was savage and despicable. It was not clear if Mohtashemi, elected to parliament last month, backed the students' threat against British people. But he reaffirmed that an Iranian death order against British author Salman Rushdie was still valid. Britain deported two Iranian students last month. A third, 33-year-old Mehرداد Kokabi, was arrested and charged with an arson attack on a London bookshop selling copies of Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses." "If the British government does not stop putting pressure on British Muslims, and in particular does not free the Iranian students, it must be assured that it has endangered the security of British subjects around the globe, especially in Islamic countries," "The Student group said in a statement published in an Arab newspaper Thursday. The group, called the Bureau for Consolidation of Unity of Islamic Societies of Universities, is an umbrella organisation for hardline student groups on Iranian campuses which advocate the export of the Islamic revolution.

Maghreb employers form joint panel

ALGIERS (R) — Employers' organisations in five North African states joined Thursday to form the Maghreb Union of Confederation of Industries, the Algerian news agency APS said. It said the group was designed to help to prepare a summit among the members of the year-old Arab Maghreb Union — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

'Ceausescu deals with Iran stand'

NICOSIA (R) — Romania's ambassador in Tehran said Thursday his new leaders respected economic agreements made with Iran just before the downfall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Tehran Radio reported. The pacts included major defence contracts, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati who was grilled in parliament over Ceausescu's visit to Iran days before he was toppled and executed last month. Ceausescu and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani signed wide-ranging agreements which Romanian officials said would be worth \$2 billion a year. The Iranian news agency IRNA said they included the sale to Romania of 130,000 tonnes of Iranian crude oil a month. "The new Romanian officials will follow up the former policy of expanding exchanges with Iran which serves the interests of both countries," Tehran Radio quoted Ambassador Ilie Casu.

Fahd sends 1.6m Korans to Soviet Muslims

JEDDAH (AP) — A gift of 1.6 million copies of the Koran is to be shipped to the Soviet Union by King Fahd, the weekly Al-Muslimoon reported. Quoting the secretary-general of the Mecca-based Muslim World League, Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef, the paper said if the national Soviet airline Aeroflot quotes a competitive price, it will be allowed to fly to Saudi Arabia to airlift the consignment. Naseef said it was the first consignment of Islamic books to the Soviet Union since the country lifted a long-standing ban on Islamic and Christian literature last summer. The move was part of the perestroika policy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Arens briefs Portuguese leader

LISBON (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens briefed Portuguese President Mario Soares of Middle East issues Thursday and sought Lisbon's support for his country's initiatives, officials said. The talks came on the final day of Arens's two-day visit — the first by an Israeli minister since relations were established in 1977. Portugal toes a cautious line on Middle East affairs and supports the existence of both an Israeli and a Palestinian state.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE	Time
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:45	Message from Iraq
18:55	Play by Shakespeare
19:10	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:15	Local programme
22:40	News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO	Time
17:00	Variety programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:00	With the Coverage
21:30	Clinical music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "My Father, My Son"

PRAYER TIMES

05:10	Fajr
06:31	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:47	Dhuhr
14:38	'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 622785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	Terrace Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	Anglican Church Tel. 623383
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813817, 65832

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Some clouds will appear at medium and high altitudes and temperatures will be around the seasonal average. Winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

northerly light to moderate and seas calm.

Amman	Min./max. temp.
Aqaba	4 / 13
Dopetra	11 / 20
Jordan Valley	3 / 14
	10 / 19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMBULANCE	743300
Dr. Khalid Mu'adi	743300
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa	732056
Dr. Mohammad Al Hourani	898552
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid	677436
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778136
Al Asma pharmacy	657055
Nazrook pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yaacob pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	657660

IRBID:	Dr. Radwan Al Saad	()
	Al Shams' pharmacy	(985238)

ZARQA:	Dr. Farah Agrabawi	()
	Khalid pharmacy	983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605900
Prior Complaints	843845
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101

Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	816151
Electric Power	636381
RAF Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	Russell Medical Centre	813813/32
	Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
	Al-Fatih Maternity, J. Amn.	644412
	Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
	Mulhas, J. Amman	636140
	Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
	Shamsi Hospital	669131
	University Hospital	843845
	Al-Mushtaq Hospital	667279
	The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
	Al-Asi, Abdali	664164/6
	Refin, Al-Muhajir	777101/3
	Al-Basir, J. Amman	775111/6
	Army, Marka	891611/5
	Queen Alia Hospital	022240/50
	Amal Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	Queen Govt. Hospital	(09)83323
	Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital ..	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ..	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafces Hospital.....	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital ..	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:45	Bahrein, Baghdad (RJ)
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:20	New Delhi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

9:35	Cairo (R)
10:00	Karachi, Dubai (R)
10:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (R)
11:00	Cairo (R)
11:55	New York, Vienna (R)
12:00	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (R)

English-language weekly reemerges with pledge to be objective, candid

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An English-language weekly has resumed publication in Jordan after a 16-month hiatus and promises to objectively bring out issues facing Jordan in an open and candid manner in light of the democratisation process in the Kingdom.

The first issue of the Star appeared on newsstands Thursday in a 24-page tabloid format; in essence the same style of presentation and graphics except in name as that of the Jerusalem Star. However, one marked difference, according to many readers, is also the candid nature of political and social issues, which is in line with the press liberalisation policy in the Kingdom.

According to Star Chief Editor Osama Al Sharif, who says he launched the venture after obtaining a new publishing licence from the government of Sheriff Zeid Ben Shaker in mid-

1989, "the return to democratic life in Jordan has breathed new life into our dying press."

U.S.-educated Sharif and former Jerusalem Star editor Ayman Safadi are the driving force behind the reborn, private-owned weekly magazine. "We don't like to call it a newspaper or a bi-weekly," Sharif told the Jordan Times in an interview at his sparsely furnished offices in Jabal Lwethbeh. "We are more oriented towards presenting issues that face Jordan and its people, and are less inclined to carry spot news as such," he said.

According to Safadi, "now seems to be a very good time to publish an English-language weekly in light of the democratic changes and openness in the country."

"We believe that the Star will be filling a gap in journalism as a whole in Jordan," he told the Jordan Times. "We are totally independent and are not affiliated with any

political party or ideology," he stressed. "We do not take sides and will be presenting issues from all perspectives and points of views," he said.

Sharif said the Jerusalem Star was on the verge of "breaking even" after consistent losses over the previous five years when it was ordered closed down by the government-appointed panel, which took over its sister publication, Al Dustour. Other similar panels took over the Jordan Press Foundation Company Limited, which publishes the Al Ra'i, the largest circulation Arabic language newspaper in Jordan, and the Jordan Times, and the Dar Al Shaab company, which publishes Sawt Al Shaab, under a decision adopted by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) in August 1988.

One of the first actions by the government of Madar Badran, who took power in early December, was a reversal of

the ESC decision, and now all the three newspaper establishments have been returned to its former managements.

The appearance of the Star coincides with intense moves within the Ministry of Information to redefine its role and structure in line with the liberalisation process in the Kingdom. Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin, in an interview appearing in this week's the Star, gave further elaborations over the process but reaffirmed earlier denials that the ministry was expected to be abolished.

In remarks carried by Reuters Thursday, the minister raised the prospect that newspapers might be allowed for political parties. "There is no final decision on new papers because this issue is connected with the licensing of political parties -- any legalised party will want to publish its own newspaper," he was quoted as saying.

149 nurses, midwives graduate today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor 149 nurses and midwives will receive their graduation certificates from their respective colleges Saturday, Jan. 20, 1990, at the Palace of Culture.

The graduates include male and female nurses and midwives who have completed their nursing and midwifery training from the Ministry of Health colleges: The Jordan College of Nursing/Amman, Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery, and Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery.

The Jordan College of Nursing was established in 1952 and has graduated since then 35 batches of midwives and 34 batches of nurses.

The Zarqa and Irbid colleges for nursing and midwifery were established in 1984 and has each graduated since then four batches of midwives and three batches of nurses.

The duration of training at these colleges is 36 months for nursing and 27 for midwifery.

The three colleges offer female trainees housing and food in addition to a monthly salary of JD 40 throughout their training courses, and provides male trainees with uniforms and a monthly salary of JD 40. Employment is ensured for these graduates at the Ministry of Health hospitals and clinics upon their graduation.

The Ministry of Health is currently working on the construction of new premises for its nursing colleges in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid.

The ministry's plan is to increase the capacity of its colleges and develop its curricula and teaching methods in order to achieve its aim of self-sufficiency in the year 2000.

A total of 550 foreign nurses are currently employed in Jordan. They make up on third of the total number of nurses working in the Kingdom's hospitals and clinics. It is hoped that the new colleges will graduate an average of 180-200 nurses each year, which is expected to decrease the need for foreign nurses.

Panel on freedoms will reinstate fired workers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Freedoms and Human Rights Committee will ensure that all employees fired for political reasons return to work and will inform the Lower House of Parliament on the seriousness of efforts exerted in this regard, according to Deputy Ahmad Azaideh who heads the Committee.

"The fact that they were fired randomly necessitates undertaking effective measures to reinstate them in their jobs," Azaideh said Friday.

He called on every citizen fired

from their job to present an appeal to the Parliament which includes the time of dismissal, place of employment and qualifications. The Committee, Azaideh said, currently studies laws, regulations, and instructions related to public freedoms and citizens' rights so as to correct them in a way that ensures citizens' freedom and their constitutional rights.

Azaideh said the Committee would make sure that the executive authority does not interfere in matters related to appointments, scholarships, clubs, pri-

vate institutions, and unions. He said the Committee also reviews the conditions of imprisoned people. The committee is looking into the possibility of having a general or private amnesty decree issued depending on individual cases.

"The Committee will follow up the conditions of Jordanians living abroad and eliminate any injustice or violations of rights perpetrated against them by a state or an organisation so as to preserve Jordan's prestige," Azaideh asserted.

House to debate death at hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet Saturday to discuss Deputy Fakhri Kassar's enquiry about the death of Imad Yusef Aziz Hassan at the Jordan University Hospital and Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi's proposal on electing a security, defence, and armed forces committee.

The agenda also includes proposals related to medical insurance for all citizens, reducing the number of vehicles ministers and directors use for personal purposes, and increasing salaries of retired military and civilians. The agenda also includes approval of the temporary amended general administrative law and rejection of the temporary licences law for Amman, and other laws.

Parliament will discuss other urgent matters if necessary.

Tafileh demands better roads and maintenance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The mayor of the southern town of Tafileh, Saleman Al Hreishan, has called on the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to speed up procedures for granting a JD 150,000 loan to Tafileh Municipality to enable it to carry out maintenance work on roads and streets.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday quoted the mayor as saying there were no plans for any improvement in road conditions in his town as long as the municipality had no sufficient funds to finance them.

Iraq, amending the nursing college certificate to become a bachelor degree certificate, permitting teachers working in administrative fields to pursue studies at the Teachers Rehabilitation College, and allowing community college graduates to pursue university studies.

The agenda also includes proposals related to medical insurance for all citizens, reducing the number of vehicles ministers and directors use for personal purposes, and increasing salaries of retired military and civilians. The agenda also includes approval of the temporary amended general administrative law and rejection of the temporary licences law for Amman, and other laws.

Parliament will discuss other urgent matters if necessary.

Symposium urges people to donate blood

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day regional symposium on ways to encourage people to donate blood and means of preserving blood for emergency use ended in Amman on Thursday.

The symposium, organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), discussed several topics including case studies on blood donation procedures in the Islamic World, China and West Bengal, according to officials at the blood bank in Amman. They said discussions centred on the different sectors of citizens who can donate blood and affirmed the need for all sectors to support national blood donation campaigns.

Blood Bank Director Janet Merza said that the symposium was part of a WHO campaign designed to encourage people in Third World to donate blood needed by hospitals and health centres at all times.

The symposium was part of the general endeavour to promote the skill and efficiency of blood bank officials in better controlling the quality of blood, Merza said.

She said the symposium's recommendations would be published in the coming few days in their final version. The symposium heard calls by WHO officials and other delegates for more efforts to encourage Third World countries, to become self-sufficient in blood.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday visited the residence of Akram Zuaiter to offer condolences on the death of his brother Ziyad Zuaiter. Akram Zuaiter is a former minister and chairman of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs (Petra).

SENATE PANEL TO MEET: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi has called the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee to meet Monday to discuss with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasbi on issues reviewed by the committee (Petra).

WEST BANK PRODUCE: The Ministry of Agriculture has decided to allow several types of fruits and vegetables to enter Jordan from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in the next two months. A ministry statement said that onions, garlic, carrots and strawberries will be allowed to be sold in Jordan.

ZARQA RESIDENTS' DEMAND: Residents of Prince Ali neighbourhood in Zarqa have cabled the Lower House of Parliament citing their demands and needs related to inclusion in urban development projects (Petra).

YOUTH AND SPORTS: Jordan will participate in the 23rd session of the executive bureau of the Arab Youth and Sports Ministers Council due to convene in Tunis Wednesday. The Jordanian delegation is led by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghalebshah (Petra).

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY: The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Environmental Research Centre currently is participating in committees designed to set a national strategy for the protection of environment. These committees are engaged in preparing the first part of this strategy (Petra).

TEAM OFF TO SYRIA: A Jordanian delegation left Friday for Damascus to hold talks with Syrian officials on economic cooperation between the two countries in accordance with an economic agreement signed earlier. The delegation, led by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz, will hold a series of discussions related to the situation of joint Jordanian-Syrian companies operating in the field of economy as well as developing work for the best of the Jordanian and Syrian peoples (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Al Jalouh at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Culture Ministry to receive award entries

AMMAN (J.T.) — The door is now open for writers and intellectuals as well as scientists and artists to present their work to qualify for awards from the Ministry of Culture worth JD 5,000 to JD 10,000 each, Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki has announced.

The minister was quoted by the Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that the awards would be presented for works during 1990 in literature, science, social science and arts.

Writers can present work in poetry, literary criticism, theatre work, and story writing. The field of science covers a wide range of topics, including agriculture engineering, architecture and medicine. Social studies, according to Karaki, cover economics, history, archaeology and psychology among others.

The minister has named March 31 as the last date for the receipt of works for the competition. A special committee in each field will be set up to examine the presented work.

The awards for distinguished works in culture and science were first introduced in January 1989 by the then Minister of Culture and Information Mohammad Hammouri who said that distinguished writers and artists as well as scientists would be awarded prizes and certificates of merit.

Nsour urges people to follow austerity plan

SALT (J.T.) — A leading member of the Lower House of Parliament has urged Jordanian citizens to follow an austerity and belt-tightening programme in the course of "controlling the coming stage and overcoming the present economic difficulties in the Kingdom."

Abdullah Nsour, chairman of the House's financial committee, told a meeting in Salt Thursday that Balqa Governorate had a lot of demands for improvement and development but the government's financial means were limited and insufficient for them.

Nsour, who represents the governorate and the city of Salt in Parliament, said that the next stage in Jordan should witness proper handling of resources in the best possible manner.

"We should not burden the government with additional debts

since we are the government and we are the treasury, and more debts for the government will mean that a bigger burden will be shouldered by the Jordanian people," Nsour told the rally, organised by the Al Salt Cultural Forum.

The rally was addressed by several other members of Parliament who urged cooperation and responsibility on the part of all citizens so that the process of democracy can succeed.

Several issues concerning public services and needs were discussed openly at the meeting, which was attended by representatives of various public sectors in Salt.

Fawzi Tusameh, Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Awni Al Basbir were the other Parliament members who addressed the rally held Thursday evening.

JESORS plans expansion schemes for its projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) has drawn up plans to carry out expansion of its projects during 1990 in a bid to find employment opportunities for retired army personnel, according to JESORS Director General Mustafa Al Ajjour.

The organisation has today implemented 25 development projects in different parts of the country and set up housing estates at Wadi Araba, and Hittieh, Aqaba, at a total cost of JD 4.5 million, Ajjour said.

These projects, he said, have been carried out in cooperation with local, Arab and foreign institutions. JESORS also initiated industrial, commercial and agri-

cultural projects from Irbid in the north to Aqaba in the south to provide jobs for retired officers and to contribute to the national effort for increasing production, he said.

Most importantly, Ajjour noted, the organisation has been helping retired servicemen in the rural regions to increase their income by providing loans and grants for the purchase of cattle and for providing vocational training to their children here and abroad.

The organisation has started a project for bottling Jordan River water that is sold in Europe and bringing in foreign cash for the country, he said.

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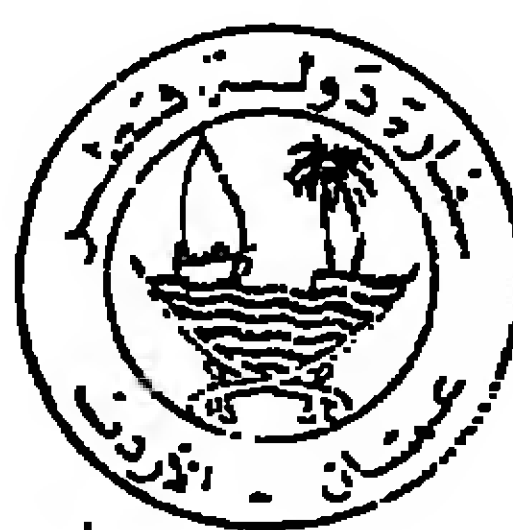
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سِفَانِةٌ لِدَوْلَةِ قَطْرِ
عُمَانِ الْأَمِيرِ
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Remembering true friends

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's visit to Jordan last week has many meanings and implications. To begin with, it portrays the kind of fraternal relations between the Iraqi leader and His Majesty King Hussein that are in short supply in inter-Arab relations. The impeccably strong bonds that were nurtured and developed between Jordan and Iraq, especially throughout the period when Iraq was waging a just war to stem Iranian aggression against the Arab World, have proved their worth at a time when Jordan became the target of foreign designs and conspiracies against its very existence. Against this backdrop, Saddam Hussein's visit to Amman must be viewed as a symbol of Iraqi solidarity and support to the Kingdom and a clear signal to all those forces that entertain hostile intentions against this country that Jordan does not stand alone.

As a founding member of the Arab Cooperation Council, Jordan, as all the other members of the ACC, draws constant strength from it. With the passage of time and as the ACC grows stronger and firmer, each and every member of the Arab Cooperation Council stands to draw additional strength from the collective strength of the four Arab countries. It so happens that Iraq, a member of the ACC, has become a regional power that many countries, especially Israel, has to reckon with. Iraq's recent spectacular technological achievements in rocketry have placed it on the top of Middle Eastern countries in terms of military and technological prowess. Both friend and foe must now reckon with Iraq's new strength. The rapid transformation of Iraq into a formidable Middle Eastern power is in no small part due to the leadership of President Saddam Hussein who worked feverishly day and night to make Iraq win an imposed war and then have his country leap forward into modern age.

The Iraqi leader and the Iraqi people, of course, remember Jordan's honourable and unwavering support to Iraq right from the start when the bets were placed in favour of Iran winning the war. King Hussein's placement of Jordan's full potential behind the Iraqi efforts to conclude its war with Iran was a principled decision that drew praise and appreciation from the entire Arab World. Clearly, neither the Iraqi leader nor his heroic people will ever forget King Hussein's and the Jordanian people's meaningful friendship and solidarity. Perhaps Saddam Hussein's last visit to his second country Jordan is a reminder that Iraq does not cease to remember its true friends and allies.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday reiterated a fact that the whole Arab World and the international community believe that the PLO remains the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. By trying to avoid this concept and to respond to the realities, the Israeli government is trying to stall further and delay any peace settlement by announcing that it will not deal with the PLO but with Palestinians from inside the occupied territories, said the paper. Any peace settlement of Israel's making, said the paper, will not be based on justice and will definitely never be comprehensive and lasting. The paper referred to His Majesty King Hussein's statement to the Jordan Times on Thursday in which he said that the PLO has already offered all that it can offer and placed its cards on the table, awaiting a response from the Israeli side which has never come. The paper said that Israel which is placing obstacles in the path of peace is known to the whole world now that it is fighting the idea of peace and an end to conflict in the Middle East area. It said that Israel's settlement policies, its absorption of thousands of Jews to be settled on occupied Arab land stand as a major witness to Israel's aggressive plans and its evil nature.

Writing in Al Ra'i paper columnist Ghazi Alasali expresses the view that Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the United States is part of Israel's strategy to stall for time and delay any peace settlement in the Middle East. No one can deny that Rabin will be arranging for more aid to Israel, but in his talks with American leaders, especially James Baker, the Israeli official will try to justify Israel's present policy and will not succumb to any pressure from Washington to deal with the PLO or respond to the requirements of a lasting peace, Sadi notes. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is willing to delay peace negotiations and the elections in the occupied territories as long as possible, because he realises that the start of negotiations will signal the beginning of talks with the PLO, the writer adds. What Rabin will do in Washington, the writer says, is to convince the United States of Israel's view, and eventually perpetuate the current stalemate, and abort any moves towards a Middle East settlement.

Al Dustour on Friday paid tribute to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein who has just concluded a two day visit to Amman. The paper said that the enthusiastic welcome accorded to the Iraqi leader in Amman reflects parts of the deep pride in Iraq's successes in the war and its continued sacrifice to defend the Arab Nation. The paper said that the Iraqi armed forces achieved victory for the Arab Nation in the eight year war with Iran, and ushered in a new era for the resurgence of Arab might that can deter any enemy from planning aggression on the Arab World. The Jordanian people's feelings of support for Iraq and its people were expressed by King Hussein who saved no effort during the war in extending Jordan's assistance to the Iraqi people, the paper added. It said that Jordan hopes that the Iraqi people will finally achieve the long-aspired peace with its neighbour so that the Gulf region can resume its march towards progress and prosperity.

How the Israeli right stifled the Post

By Erwin Frenkel

ON DECEMBER 25, I resigned as editor of The Jerusalem Post. It was a final, not tactical, act, for the cause was an irrevocable infringement by the publisher on the editor's authority.

The cause in this newspaper that followed the extensive publicity in Israel and abroad, were for me, astonishing. But many of these attempts to explain my action and its aftermath have been misleading or downright wrong. This includes at least parts of the statement to readers made by the publisher which appeared on these pages last Friday, January 12.

I wish here to put the record straight. Historically, in The Jerusalem Post, there was never a division of authority between publisher and editor. Gershon Agron, the founder, in 1932, was also the editor. His successors too, while accountable to ownership, were editors presiding over the whole enterprise.

This arrangement is not unique, though uncommon in newspaper chains. It assured, at least in principle, preeminence of the journalistic interest in the operations and policies of the newspaper and the company.

When the company was purchased last year by Hollinger Inc. of Toronto, this arrangement came to an end. A publisher, also titled

president, was installed, directly representing the proprietor. With that came a new problem: where, in relation to the editor, would the publisher's authority stop? Who would ultimately preside over the editorial product?

There are no standard answers to that question. They vary with the variety of newspapers and proprietors. The owners of Hollinger declined from the outset to define the editor's authority in an agreed written document. Resolution was left, therefore, to the experience of the day to day.

I respected the proprietor's right to prefer that course. But in doing so, I also noted red lines of editorial prerogative whose infringement would be unacceptable. While the proprietor may own the newspaper, he does not own the minds of those who make it.

That is the nub of the matter. Journalism is, above all, an enterprise in social judgment. The object of that judgment is the historical present, the fast flood of daily events. Journalism plucks from this infinite flow those events deemed worthy of public regard, reporting them as honest witness. That it calls news. It assigns such news events weights of importance and interest. And it seeks, by further interpretative judgment, to help place those events in a more explicit context of narrative understanding.

It does all this on behalf of the

society of which it is a part, in the conviction that the "news" it so delivers is essential feedback in helping that society best steer itself. In that sense, journalism is guardian of a public trust.

In a newspaper this process of judgment is a collective effort. It has checks and balances. But judgment it remains. For that reason all newspapers have a character of their own, telling the story of the present as they perceive it.

To give that collective judgment coherence and to protect it from influences that would divert it in their favour, there is the editor and his authority. In the end, it is his voice, his judgment over what is fit to print, that would save this collective process from chaos or corruption. So long as his judgment of what is fit to print is not suspect of fear of favour.

Now this process of journalistic judgment may not precisely describe a profession. But it does describe a commitment. A commitment to its own integrity. When that integrity is intact, the newspaper's unforgiving passion to inform, to tell the present's story, turns his job into his love.

But when that integrity is violated, when that judgment suffers bent, the air goes out. The vocation turns into alienation from self.

The publisher of The Jeru-

salem Post, appointed by Hollinger, faced a daunting task. He had never made a news judgment. He had never been in the grip of the journalist's passion to inform. His career and his personal achievements lay elsewhere, in military and then public service.

His mandate, from the proprietors, to preside over the company as a whole, also did little to prepare him for jousting with an editor and editorial staff honed on the independence they had for so long enjoyed. That independence, it deserves noting, had, in my 14 years as editor, and in the experience of my former colleague Ari Rath, been absolute, though the previous owners were economic institutions of the Labour Movement.

The new publisher was also quickly subject to appeals from this newspaper's detractors, especially from the political right. They would prefer The Jerusalem Post, because of its language, to be Israel's window to the world rather than its readers' window on Israel. What the detractors condoned in the Hebrew press, even if sometimes with gritted teeth, they would prefer to stifle or sweeten in English. Given this newspaper's consistent warnings of the perils of occupation and its unvarnished reports of the intifada, the hopes of those, in high places and low, who sought a more palatable Jerusalem Post

were quickened by installation of the new publisher.

The ingredients for conflict between the publisher and this editor were thus in place. Gradually, despite mutual attempts to respect the contrasting views and prerogatives, they emerged. And in the process, an increasingly anxious editorial staff felt cause to wonder whether the editor's voice would continue to prevail, or whether the publisher would, if not in name then in practice, ultimately command the collective journalistic effort.

The issue was abruptly joined when the publisher, applying for admission to the Israel Editor's Committee, wrote that he intended to involve himself ever more in editorial matters, "with all that this implies," though he refrained from the moment from "appointing himself the responsible editor." Over those words, I submitted my resignation.

If the publisher felt he had the authority and mandate from the proprietors to preside over the newspaper's editorial voice whenever he saw fit, there was, I explained, no reason for delay. For by making that explicit, he had, in essence, already displaced the editor. He should then take the title himself or hire an editor willing to speak in his voice.

A number of senior editors and reporters with whom I had worked intimately, and others, then resigned in my wake. They anticipated a Jerusalem Post no longer hospitable to their understanding of its purpose. And they feared that the integrity of their own journalistic judgments would no longer be honoured. In resigning, these journalists risked their careers, their livelihoods and, in some cases, their families' futures.

That, in brief, is the record. In his statement to the readers of this newspaper, the publisher sought to personalise these developments. My resignation was largely rooted in personality, the resignations that followed reflected ulterior motives, the special agenda of a small group, intent, among other things, on defying management.

That reading of what occurred conveniently trivialises the substance of the issues. That substance is the character of The Jerusalem Post, its discharge of the public trust under the proprietorship of Hollinger Inc. and the command of the new publisher.

It will, in the weeks and months ahead, be for the readers to decide whether they have been well served by these changes — The Jerusalem Post.

OPEN FORUM

American bashing?

FIRST of all I disagree with Marjorie Shakin's title concerning her Focus on People, "Kiss me-I'm Arab" as inappropriate and misleading in her presentation of her coverage of the very distinguished and intelligent James Zogby.

If Ms. Shakin is "America bashing" then why does she extenuate her article to the subject of such an inadequate title for more than differing about equality and lack of opportunity for minorities, it is American morals which should be "bashed" from an Arab point of view as well as such cheap display of one's nationalism on a T-shirt. "Kiss me-I'm Arab" which is an invitation to cheap demagogical behaviour and is totally irrelevant. If something must be written, why not write, "Hi! I'm an Arab."

Second, before any journalist makes a statement he or she should be willing to back it up with facts. "While America, since its creation, did sport the face of Miss Liberty, it did not always do what it preached." This is an incorrect statement. Fact: America was discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus. Fact: The Statue of Liberty was not erected until many years after the American Civil War (1861-1865). Fact: the Statue of Liberty commemorates the friendship of the peoples of the United States and France. It stands 305 feet (93 metres) high from foundation to torch. It represents a woman holding a torch in her raised right hand and a tablet bearing the date July 4, 1776 (the date of the publication of the Declaration of Independence) in her left.

Fact: a French historian, Edouard de Laboulaye made the proposal for the statue after the American Civil War. The statue was designed by Alexander-Gustave Eiffel in 1885. Eiffel also constructed the Eiffel tower in 1887-1889 in Paris, France. The completed statue made in France weighing 225 tons was disassembled and shipped to New York City. The pedestal for the statue was completed later. The Statue of Liberty is formally known as "Liberty Enlightening the World." It is situated on Liberty Island in the Upper Bay of New York Harbour. The statue was mounted on its pedestal and was dedicated by President Grover Cleveland on October 28, 1886. The statue was never declared a national monument until 1924, therefore, obviously the Statue of Liberty has not been in America since its "creation" and God created America as well as the rest of the world.

America, it is true, can be criticised from various ideological points of view, but it is one of the few countries in the world where any man can fight for his rights. He may not always win, but at least he can fight. It is one of the few countries where such great men as Dr. Martin Luther King could be "brave" and struggle for the ethnic democratic freedom of not only blacks but all minority groups.

America is not perfect democracy but at least most Americans have more political and economic opportunities than citizens of many other countries in the world. However, the fact that various ethnic groups have not achieved equality has troubled many Americans. The population of the United States is probably the most widely diverse of any nation in the world. The U.S. is not homogeneous — it is a pluralistic society — "a nation of groups." During the early 1970s, a strong trend among minorities to organise groups to press for social change made the American people increasingly conscious of the characteristics of the various ethnic and racial groups that make up the national population.

America is a country where great men such as James Zogby can struggle for the rights of ethnic groups as Arab Americans as well as help shape a great political influence for the total American outlook towards the Middle East and as the very esteemed Mr. Zogby put it, we as Arabs have to do more to enable not only America but all the world to pay attention to us as those real and brave Palestinians are doing by their intifada. We can also use our political voice by education, intelligence and unity as a decisive force to be with it.

Therefore, I think Marjorie Shakin would have done more justice in her presentation of her article about James Zogby by picking a more appropriate title and to delete her insignificant "America bashing." In order to defeat, or overcome your enemy you must first know him and I don't think Ms. Shakin is very qualified on this point. By the way, I am an American so I know what I'm talking about which is the idea behind good journalism, to know your subject and to back it up with facts!

LETTERS

Halawa

To the Editor,

A WORD of warning to your readers who plan to travel out of Queen Alia International Airport!

Apparently, the authorities at that airport have uncovered a potentially dangerous material, and have decided to add it to the list of dangerous materials compiled by ICAO/IATA. The name of this hazardous matter is Halawa. Yes, Halawa!

I was at Queen Alia Airport last Friday morning seeing my family off, when I witnessed a gentleman arguing angrily with one of the security officials. Apparently, his son was carrying a box of this "explosive" in his hand baggage.

and the security official refused to let it through. There was no explanation given for this strange decision, except that it was forbidden to carry halawa. Having spent more than a decade in the Arab World, I am familiar with this sweet, and indeed addictive to it.

What I found very strange was that the hand baggage had already passed through the metal detector with the halawa in it. Surely, if there were anything in that box, the detector would have shown it, unless these expensive machines are not functioning and are there just for the sake of appearance.

Claire de la Plume

Bulgarians still waiting to see signs of promised democracy

By Tony Smith
The Associated Press

PRAVEC, Bulgaria — More than two months after hard-line leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted, ending over 40 years of fear-inspiring Communist rule in Bulgaria, signs of change are few in his hometown, a sleepy lakeside resort nestled among the mountains northeast of Sofia.

People in Pravets — like many Bulgarians outside Sofia — still have doubts that the sweeping democratic reforms promised by Zhivkov's Communist successors will materialise in the near future, reflecting widespread fears of a continuation of "Zhivkovism without Zhivkov."

On a narrow, fir tree-lined lane, Zhivkov's family house — one of more than 30 luxurious residences he kept nationwide — is shuttered up, the white-walled garden decked in snow untrodden for weeks.

Heft, stone street signs that until recently bore the name of Zhivkov's mother, Maritsa Zhivkova, have been replaced by new plaques, dubbing the road Vasil Levski — after Bulgaria's most revered national hero.

In Sofia, the capital, tens of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators have taken to the streets regularly since the former leader's overthrow Nov. 10, demanding quicker steps towards democracy from former foreign minister-turned-reformist leader Petar Mladenov.

But although only 30 kilometres away, Pravets could be another world.

"In principle there has been no change whatsoever," said Velin Ogledalov, chief cook at the pagoda-roofed Shatra restaurant, where Zhivkov often held state dinners for visitors that included former Romanian dictator — and honorary Pravets citizen — Nicolae Ceausescu.

"The Bulgarians are thinking — we have taken a load off our

shoulders — but there is still fear," said Ogledalov.

"Department Six (secret police) used to be everywhere. And they're still there, only now they're smiling," he added.

In early January, the busy 34-year-old set up Pravets's first independent trade union, which is campaigning for multi-party democracy, private enterprise and free-market economics.

He claims he is not afraid, but often checks the restaurant dining room around him for eavesdroppers.

"The old leaders are all still there. Only the moment they start falling, can we begin making real changes," he said.

According to leading opposition figure Petar Beron, Zhivkov is currently at his Boyana residence near Sofia, being "protected from the wrath of the people."

Beron said Zhivkov, his family and closest cronies would likely be tried, but indicated a parliament-led commission investigating abuses of power during the clique's 35-year rule would stop short of unearthing evidence of corruption by other leading Communists who are "very much still at large."

Parliament on Monday struck the Communists' guaranteed leading role in society from the constitution, putting Bulgaria on par with East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

On Tuesday, the Communist Party agreed to allow pro-democracy groups to publish their own newspaper and said they would be granted offices in Sofia, but rejected a demand for opposition access to radio and television.

Access to the media is important in Bulgaria, which is isolated from Western and all East Bloc broadcasts except Soviet transmissions.

For the time being, the Balkan country still remains, at least constitutionally, "a socialist state... headed by the working class."

Major steps to fuller democracy, that took weeks in East Germany and days in Czechoslovakia, are still looking ponderous in Bulgaria.

"All our neighbour countries are ahead of us now," said Emil Angelov, 21, a medical student from Pravets.

But he is optimistic that "time will take its course — if we really have free elections, (the Communists) will lose."

Opposition leaders are not so sure. Zhelevo Zhelev, president of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces says his group might not be prepared in time for general election Mladenov has pledged for May.

Claiming state-controlled media is still biased towards the Communists, Zhelev has called for two-stage elections, with a vote in May to elect close Zhiv-

kov associates from parliament, followed by a full election in November.

"People feel free, and we're trying for change, but all we've had up to now is the nationalities problem," said Angelov.

Tensions flared between Bulgarian nationalists and the country's estimated 1.5 million ethnic Turks and Muslims, after the Communists on Dec. 29 reversed Zhivkov's harsh ethnic assimilation policy that banned Turkish names and language and Muslim religious rites.

The decision sparked protests, strikes and a red-hot, but time-consuming, national debate that seemed to distract attention from calls for more and faster political reform.

Some opposition figures have even accused veteran local party officials of inciting hatred among the nationalists, in a last-ditch attempt to hold on to power.

"It basically put our struggle for more democracy on ice and I can't see the process speeding up that much in the near future," said Zhelev.

Both Ogledalov and Angelov said the tensions have been used to postpone painful decisions on Bulgaria's real problems — its one-party system and tattered, centrally-planned economy.

In Pravets, a few inhabitants laugh and joke about Zhivkov now. But most are reluctant to talk about the man known familiarly as "Toshko," who Ogledalov remembers as "jovial and hearty with a good sense of humour and a good network of bodyguards."

Zhivkov made Pravets a socialist showpiece, and its inhabitants were often resented for their pretty, low-rise housing, clean air and well-stocked stores — rarities in many Bulgarian towns.

"But we weren't privileged," said Ogledalov, "every month we had to scrub every inch of the town with our own hands before (Zhivkov) arrived."

Australian embassy in Beijing, he did not apply for asylum. He came out Aug. 15, as soon as the foreign ministry promised he would not be arrested or deported.

Some Chinese suspected a deal when he told government television two days later that he did not see anyone killed in Tiananmen Square during the June 3-4 army attack.

Authorities insist no one died in the square, while acknowledging about 300 deaths elsewhere in the city. Many Chinese say the toll was much higher, and Western security sources say the toll may have been 3,000.

But Hou said he made no deal. "I can only say I didn't see anyone die. That doesn't prove no one died."

Two of the three friends who went on hunger strike with Hou remain jailed. One was freed in December.

Hou was jailed by police for a while, and has not been allowed so far to travel inside China or to Australia, where his wife, pop singer Cheng Lin, fled in June.

But his main punishment has been loss of his career. Stores have been told not to sell his records, and the cannot sing his new songs in public. Hou said he has no interest in singing the old ones.

He has begun selling his music equipment for money. "I had a lot of money but I spent a lot," he said with a grin. "I don't save."

Singer steps into gap left by China's silenced dissidents

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

BEIJING — With China's best-known dissidents jailed, exiled or in hiding, a popular folk singer is trying to fill the void with protest songs and calls for democracy.

"You could say I'm the world's stupidest, most amateur dissident," Hou Dejian said, laughing and shaking his head in mock self-ridicule during a recent interview.

"I'm not a politician. I had friends who were dissidents, but... I'm a professional musician," he said, with elaborate emphasis. "But right now, I'm trying to figure out how to become a passable dissident."

Hou, 33, is no ordinary mainland musician: He is the Taiwanese-born son of a Nationalist soldier who fought against the Communists. Seeking his roots, Hou visited the Communist mainland as an established star in 1983 and decided to stay.

The darling of the government, he was allowed to keep living like a star, with two homes and two cars, one a maroon Mercedes Benz.

The skinny, chain-smoking Hou, usually clad in black leather jacket and boots, is famous among Chinese on the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong for his Bob Dylan-influenced songs about social concerns, such as the endangered pandas, and about

the worries of youth.

He became known to Westerners in the final days of China's student democracy movement last spring, when he and three friends began a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square to protest martial law. Many students were already leaving the square out of fear, and the hunger strike infused the movement with new spirit.

Less than 48 hours later on June 4, when tanks poised on the square's edge, Hou negotiated with the army to allow the remaining students to retreat peacefully, possibly saving hundreds of lives.

Now, he is again trying to keep the spirit of democracy alive, taking advantage of his relative freedom as a defector.

"I can say more than ordinary Chinese," Hou said. So he has begun "making a little noise" giving interviews to foreign journalists and singing for them the half-dozen songs he has written about the democracy movement — songs he knows no mainland company can record now.

"Friends who love freedom, spread our wings," one ballad

goes. "Listen carefully, no one can lie again. Open your eyes, no one can twist the truth again."

Hou has not worked out any philosophy of government or theories about the relative merits of Communism. "I'm not a political scientist. I say, ask all the Chinese people and then decide."

All he wants is provide an alternative to the Communist Party voice that has filled the airwaves and newspapers since June with relentless condemnation of the democracy movement.

"Because you can't bear other voices that doesn't mean there's stability," he said, picking words carefully while he picked out chords on his electric guitar.

"We have an ancient tyrant culture. A real change would mean changing the slaves, not changing the tyrant. Although it's been slow, there is change. Most people in Beijing took part in the movement and... they are not as afraid as before."

Hou said the movement wiped away his feeling of being an outsider on the mainland.

That is why during the summer, when he hid from police for more than two months in the

OTIOT TOP

Fondée en 1978 pour la promotion de la recherche scientifique

La Fondation Shoman et les aléas du mécénat

«Participer, directement ou indirectement, à la recherche scientifique dans le monde arabe», tant fondamentale qu'expérimentale, «contribuer à la formation et au développement d'une génération de spécialistes arabes»: tels se présentent les objectifs de la Fondation Abdel Hameed Shoman. Se

Avec un fonds de 31.351 livres et périodiques, la bibliothèque de la Fondation Abdel Hameed Shoman (FAHS) constitue aujourd'hui l'un des centres de documentation les plus importants du monde arabe. Au même titre que les universités du pays, la Société scientifique royale, ou encore la bibliothèque municipale d'Amman.

Les Jordanais ne s'y trompent d'ailleurs pas: depuis son inauguration en 1986, ils sont plus de 251.000 à avoir fréquenté les trois étages qui lui sont réservés sur les six du bâtiment tout par la Fondation à Shoman. Trois étages ouverts gratuitement au public, sept jours sur sept, d'un bout à l'autre de l'année.

A en lire la brochure de présentation de la FAHS, on est cependant bien loin des objectifs que s'étaient fixés ses fondateurs et bailleurs de fonds, à sa création en 1978. Enamoration de la Banque Arabe, dont le siège n'est resté d'elle que de quelques centaines de mètres, la Fondation se voulait originellement une structure d'incubation de centres de recherche scientifique et de la formation d'une véritable «génération de spécialistes» dans le monde arabe. Tant en sciences fondamentales qu'appliquées.

En clair: jouer le rôle de médiateur des techniques et de la technologie, au service du développement régional. «C'est une idée qui se situe dans la droite ligne de l'œuvre personnelle d'Abdel Hameed Shoman, le fondateur de la Banque Arabe (voir encadré), souligne le responsable de la bibliothèque de la FAHS, Zakaria Haj Hamad.

Malgré un budget annuel correspondant à 2% du bénéfice de l'établissement financier (4%), la Fondation n'est pas parvenue à concrétiser ses projets, dont celui d'ouvrir un centre de recherche et d'expérimentation, équipé à ses frais, pour les scientifiques. «Ce n'est pas un problème de fonds, mais plutôt l'absence de statistiques exactes sur les potentiels humains et les besoins réels du monde arabe, qui constitue l'obstacle majeur à une entreprise de cette envergure. Il n'existe encore aucune étude globale et exhaustive à cette échelle», poursuit Zakaria Haj Hamad.

A défaut de laboratoires, la FAHS

présentait, car depuis son installation à Amman en 1978, la FAHS s'est peu à peu transformée en centre ultra-moderne de documentation, unique en Jordanie. Faute d'études globales et précises sur les ressources humaines et les besoins scientifiques des pays du Proche et Moyen Orient.

réside dans la banque de données qu'elle offre à ses visiteurs. Plus de 35.000 articles, journaux ou livres sont répertoriés et classifiés dans l'ordinateur de la Fondation et accessibles sur plus d'une trentaine d'écrans.

Premier organisme à avoir utilisé le système canadien «Mimosa», intégré au réseau du centre de documentation de la Ligue arabe, la FAHS se retrouve aujourd'hui en mesure de proposer une information exhaustive sur les fonds des quelque 50 bibliothèques jordanaises. Heureux elle lui a permis récemment de connecter ses services avec l'université du Yarmouk, à Irbid, l'académie jordanienne de langue arabe et même l'université palestinienne de Bir Zeit, en Cisjordanie. «Dans un proche avenir, nous serons également en liaison avec l'institut du monde arabe à Paris», ajoute le responsable du département d'information de la Fondation, Ghassan Abdulrah.

Pour lui, c'est d'ailleurs là que se trouve l'avenir de la FAHS. «L'idée du centre de recherche est plus ou moins abandonnée. Nous serions qu'il est peut-être plus efficace d'aider les organismes déjà établis, pour qu'ils puissent répondre aux besoins qui sont exprimés par nos visiteurs. C'est pourquoi, dans le projet de construction de nos propres locaux, dans les 5 ans à venir, nous prévoyons d'étendre la surface de la bibliothèque, de conserver un hall d'expositions artistiques et d'ouvrir un auditorium».

Quant aux projets, ils restent nombreux: depuis la création d'une banque de données sur les études scientifiques dans le monde arabe à partir des années 1950, jusqu'à la constitution d'un fonds de documentation sur

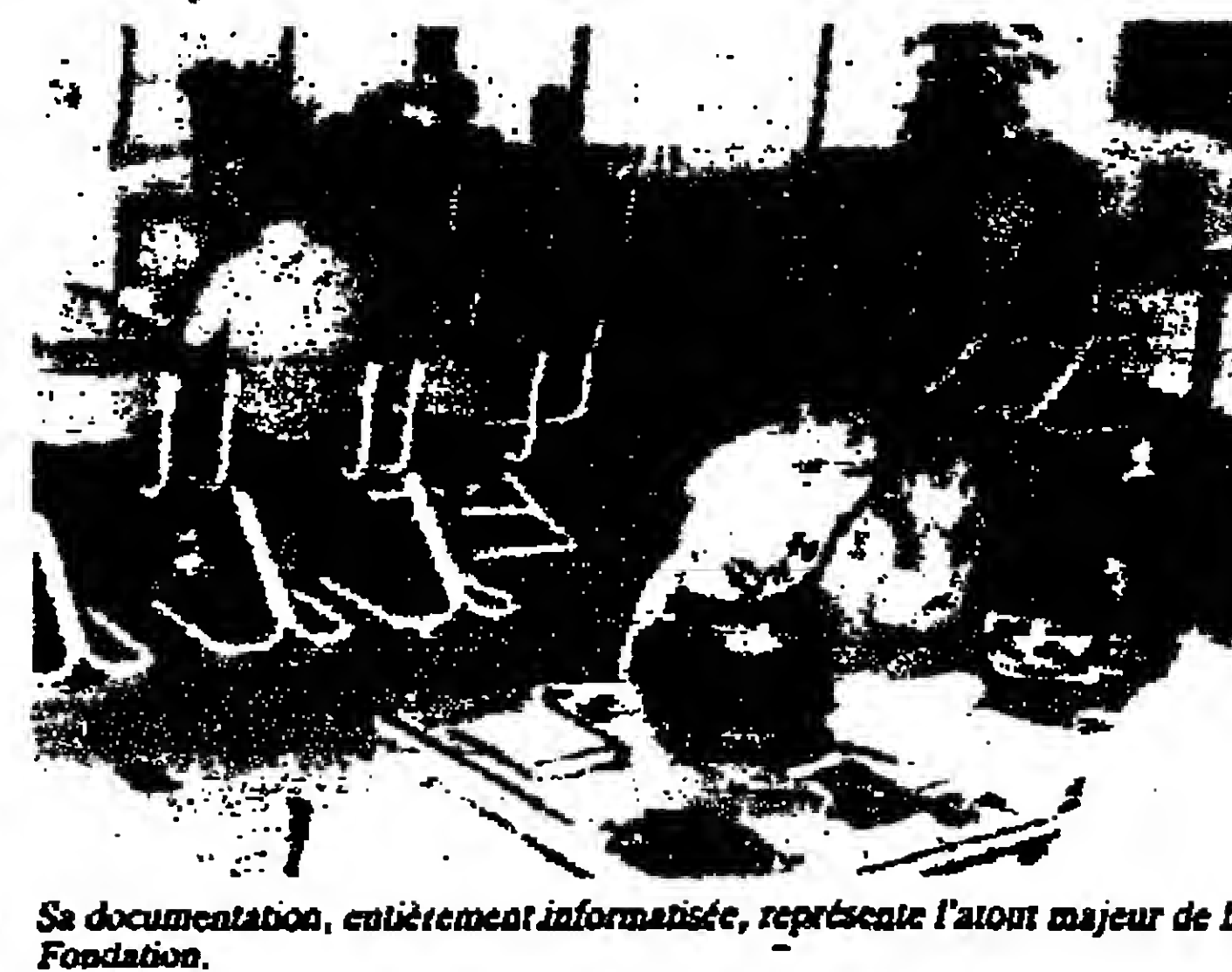
la Palestine. «Une étude, d'un coût de 5.000 dinars, est actuellement en cours pour ce projet», précise Ghassan Abdulrah.

(4) Ce budget est calculé à partir des bénéfices globaux des 103 succursales de la Banque Arabe. En 1988, il s'est élevé à 85 millions de dollars. La Fondation dispose d'un compte propre à Genève où sont automatiquement déposés ses fonds.

Fondateur de la Banque Arabe, un empire financier de dimension mondiale, Abdel Hameed Shoman (1890-1974) n'était pas un banquier ordinaire. Pendant 60 ans, il a mis sa réussite professionnelle au service du développement intellectuel et scientifique du monde arabe.

Abdel Hameed Shoman est né en 1890 au sein d'une famille aisée de Beir Hanina, un village proche de Jérusalem. Dès l'âge de 7 ans, il quitte l'école pour travailler. D'abord comme ouvrier dans la carrière de pierres de son père. Puis, il transporte quotidiennement rocs ou sables aux architectes de la Ville Sainte. Au départ de ses frères pour le service militaire, c'est lui qui prend en charge la direction de l'entreprise familiale.

En 1911 cependant, il décide d'émigrer, contre l'avis de ses parents. Avec à peine 23 livres de l'époque en poche, il prend le chemin des Etats-Unis. La réussite lui sourit rapidement. Au sortir de la première guerre mondiale, il est à la tête d'une usine de confection et fournit des milliers de boutique



Sa documentation, entièrement informatisée, représente l'atout majeur de la Fondation.

Abdul Hameed Shoman L'empire d'un nationaliste philanthrope

Un exploit, au regard des crises et des guerres, qui marquent la période. Shoman en fait même personnellement: il est emprisonné à deux reprises par les Britanniques pour son soutien financier au mouvement nationaliste palestinien.

Rien n'arrête pourtant le développement de la Banque Arabe. Au fil des années, Abdel Hameed Shoman en tisse la toile internationale, qui aujourd'hui se compose de 103 succursales dans le monde et représente un budget de 400 millions de dinars jordaniens.

Fidèle à ses engagements, il accroît dans le même temps ses aides sociales et culturelles. Des milliers de jeunes bénéficient de bourses d'études. A Amman, il fonde le département d'études commerciales de l'université de Jordanie. Autant de réalisations, qui témoignent de son dévouement et de sa fidélité à sa patrie: la nation arabe.

Un premier pas est franchi en 1939, avec l'ouverture d'une suc-

EN BREF

Information. Le ministre de l'Information a indiqué jeudi dans une interview à l'hebdomadaire «Star», qu'il ne considèrera plus son ministère comme une structure «directrice» mais chargée de «réglementer les professions liées à l'information» dans le royaume. Ibrahim Izziddine, qui a réitéré toutes les rumeurs de suppression de son ministère, a laissé entendre que «même les lois sur la presse seront sujettes à des modifications». Il a par ailleurs reconnu que des demandes de licences de publication lui avaient d'ores et déjà été soumises et que la naissance de nouveaux journaux dans le pays accompagnerait sans doute la réapparition des partis politiques.

Réfugiés. Le nombre de Palestiniens, quittant les territoires occupés par la Jordanie, a presque quintuplé depuis le début de l'intifada, en décembre 1987, a révélé cette semaine le ministre de l'Intérieur jordanien. Selon Mohammed Adwan, responsable du département de contrôle et d'inspection, ce nombre «double tous les ans depuis la révolution des habitants» de Cisjordanie et de Gaza. Il est ainsi passé de 5.175 en 1987 à 24.324 en 1989, soit 34.351 en deux ans. 45.594 Palestiniens se sont réfugiés en Jordanie depuis 1983. Près de la moitié d'entre eux ont ensuite émigré vers d'autres pays arabes.

Barrage. Le creusement du canal de 923 mètres de long, destiné à détourner les eaux du Yarmouk à la frontière jordanienne-syrienne, a été achevé, a annoncé lundi le ministère jordanien de l'Eau et de l'Irrigation. D'un coût de près de 3,5 millions de dollars, cet ouvrage représente la première phase de construction du barrage al-Wahda. La deuxième tranche de travaux, qui consiste dans la mise en place d'un mur de 100 mètres de haut en travers du fleuve et d'une centrale thermique, doit donner lieu à des appels d'offres dès cette année. Estimés à 350 millions de dollars, les travaux devraient débuter en 1991 et durer 4 ans. Le projet d'al-Wahda, adopté par Amman et Damas en 1987, permettra au royaume de doubler la surface de ses terres cultivées et d'alimenter la capitale ainsi que sa banlieue en eau potable. La Syrie bénéficiera pour sa part de 75% de l'électricité produite par le barrage.

USA-Israël. Les partis politiques israéliens se sont tous déclarés inquiets mercredi après les propositions du sénateur américain Bob Dole de réduire de 5% l'aide de Washington à certains de ses alliés traditionnels, dont Israël, qui bénéficie annuellement d'une enveloppe de 3 milliards de dollars. Présenté par le leader de la minorité républicaine au Sénat comme un moyen de débloquent des fonds pour les «nouvelles démocraties» d'Europe de l'Est ou du Panama, ce projet a d'autant plus été pris au sérieux, qu'il intervient au lendemain du rappel par la Maison Blanche que son aide économique et militaire à l'Etat hébreu n'était pas destinée à coloniser les territoires occupés. Rappel motivé par les déclarations d'Yitzhak Shamir dimanche dernier en faveur d'un «grand Israël» pour installer les immigrants juifs d'URSS. Le premier ministre israélien est d'ailleurs revenu sur ses propos cette semaine, précisant que «personne ne forcera» ces derniers à s'implanter en Cisjordanie ou à Gaza.

Caucase. La situation restait très tendue hier soir dans le Caucase soviétique, où Azerbaïdjanais et Arméniens s'affrontaient toujours malgré l'envoi, mardi, de 11.000 soldats et membres des forces spéciales de l'Armée Rouge. Jeudi, les habitants de Bakou, capitale de l'Azerbaïdjan, ont déclenché une grève générale et érigé des barricades pour empêcher l'entrée des blindés dans la ville. Depuis le 10 janvier, les violences anti-arméniennes ont fait au moins une soixantaine de morts et plus de 200 blessés dans le pays.

Assassinat. Le maire des XIVe et XVe arrondissements de Marseille (sud de la France) a été tué par Jacques Desbordes mardi soir par deux hommes de gauche. Le Dr. Jean-Jacques Peschard était un proche du sénateur-maire de la ville, Robert Vigouroux, et membre de la commission municipale de l'urbanisme. Agé de 58 ans, M. Peschard était chirurgien et père de 4 enfants.

Idees. Les missiles nucléaires soviétiques usagés ont un avenir, depuis qu'un héros britannique de la deuxième guerre mondiale a signé un contrat, mercredi, avec le gouvernement de Moscou pour les transformer en... stylos. L'idée de fabriquer 100 millions de stylos, probablement en Angleterre, à partir de 2.000 tonnes de métal recyclé des missiles nucléaires, a été suggérée par les Soviétiques. La signature du contrat a été annoncée par le président d'un fond d'aide aux victimes de catastrophes, auquel sera destiné le profit de l'opération.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA
Le Bambo, de Luis Valdez, avec Edith Morales, Rosanna DeSoto et Elizabeth Peña. Fin des années 1950: deux jeunes adolescents Américains, qui ne rêvent pas de devenir des stars du rock'n'roll. La chance sourit à quelques uns, tel Ritchie. A 17 ans, il se retrouve vedette...
Centre américain, dimanche 21 et jeudi 25 janvier à 19h00 (en anglais).

CONFERENCE
Festival Depardieu. Le centre français présente tout au long du mois une série de films, dont l'acteur français Gérard Depardieu est l'interprète principal. Cette semaine:
La Femme d'à côté, de François Truffaut, avec Fanny Ardant (1981). La vie tranquille de Bernadette et Arlette se trouve bouleversée par l'arrivée de nouveaux voisins dans la maison «à côté»...
Centre culturel français, mardi 23 janvier à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

TELEVISION
V, comme vengeance, téléfilm de Claude Boissol, d'après l'œuvre de Pierre Schoeller et Olivier Wahl, avec François Arnoult, André Ferréol et Bernard Besson. Toute sa vie, Emile a aidé les gens de son village, sans aucune considération en retour. Le jour où elle est victime d'une attaque cardiaque, ses voisins se rendent compte du rôle qu'elle joue dans le village...
JTV, vendredi 26 janvier à 17h25.

Plus de 100.000 clients en 1989

Le «palace du patinage»



Nidal, Thacir, Firas, Manala, Rimah, Najah, sous la direction de leur père, Abdel Raouf: toute la famille Attieh met la main à la pâte depuis deux ans pour faire du «palace du patinage» de Sweilich une affaire... «qui roule». Deuxième espace ouvert aux amateurs du patin à roulettes à Amman, le succès de l'entreprise n'avait rien d'assuré.
«On a eu peur de l'échec au début, reconnaît Nidal, directeur du centre. Nous avons conçu le bâtiment, de 1450m2, et son équipement pour le patinage: patinoires, patins, etc. Elle a été construite en 1989. Elle a une capacité d'accueil de 280 patineurs et ne peut guère être reconstruite».
Abdel Raouf Attieh et ses six enfants sont aujourd'hui ravis: depuis son inauguration en août 1987, le «palace» fait patinoire comble. En 1989, le nombre des entrées a même dépassé les 100.000. Un record établi grâce à l'engouement des jeunes pour le patin mais aussi grâce aux autres services offerts par le centre: restaurant, cafétéria, salle de jeux. Quand ce ne sont pas des concerts. «Nous avons déjà invité de grands chanteurs, comme Rabi' Khoulid et Hanan», précise Nidal Attieh.
La réussite n'empêche pas la famille de penser déjà à de nouveaux projets: «On espère notamment construire des cours de tennis et de squash», explique Thacir.

Saada Kilani.

«Palace du patinage», Sweilich. Tél: 822650. Entrée: 1 JD; location des patins: 1,5 JD.

Décès du socialiste français Charles Hernu

Un homme du président

Charles Hernu, ancien ministre français de la Défense, est mort mercredi soir à Lyon (sud-est de la France) à l'âge de 66 ans. Socialiste convaincu, il fut l'un des plus proches compagnons de route de François Mitterrand pendant 25 ans. Sa carrière politique reste marquée par le scandale du «Rainbow Warrior», qui avait coûté la vie à un écologiste en 1985.

Charles Hernu est mort en militant. La crise cardiaque, qui devait l'emporter mercredi soir, l'a terrassé la veille au cours d'un meeting en faveur des Arméniens du Caucase à Villeurbanne (banlieue de Lyon), dont il était député-maire. Né en 1923 à Quimper (Bretagne), ce fils de gendarme était entré dans la Résistance à l'âge de 19 ans, avant de se lancer, en 1951, dans la politique aux côtés du radical Pierre Mendès-France.

En 1965, François Mitterrand l'appelle auprès de lui pour préparer sa première campagne électorale. Dès lors et jusqu'à sa mort, Charles Hernu restera l'un des plus proches amis du président français. Membre du Comité directeur du Parti socialiste depuis 1971, il en devient le spécialiste pour les questions militaires.

Nommé ministre de la Défense à l'arrivée de la gauche au pouvoir en 1981, il aura consacré l'essentiel de sa carrière politique à plaider chez les socialistes français en faveur de la force de frappe, mise sur pied par le général de Gaulle. Plaidoirie longtemps vaine auprès de François Mitterrand, qui préférait à la «bombe» une stratégie pacifiste et anti-militariste.

Suppression de la loi anti-communiste «Il était grand temps»

Le gouvernement jordanien a décidé mercredi de supprimer la loi dite de «lutte contre le communisme» et ses amendements de 1953, conformément au processus démocratique engagé par l'équipe de Mouadher Badran. Mesure saluée par Yacoub Zayadine, secrétaire général du PCJ depuis 3 ans, qui espère voir son parti sortir de 39 ans de clandestinité.

Le Jourdain: Voyez-vous dans la suppression de la loi anti-communiste un prétexte à la légalisation du PCJ?

Yacoub Zayadine: Rien n'est sûr, mais je l'espère. De même que j'espère obtenir l'autorisation pour le PCJ d'avoir un journal. Il était temps, grand temps, d'abolir les lois de répression anti-communistes dans le pays. Notre parti est le premier à avoir eu le jour en Jordanie en 1951. Depuis, cette époque, nous avons été persécutés pour nos idées et forcés à la clandestinité. Nous avons toujours lutté pour les libertés, l'indépendance, le droit au travail pour tous... Ce sont aujourd'hui les priorités nationales. Tant mieux.

L.J.: La décision du gouvernement marque un changement notable par rapport au passé. Pour l'Etat, le nationalisme arabe et communiste étaient antagoniques.

Y.Z.: Je pense que le roi Hussein a changé d'avis. Comme son gouvernement et beaucoup de responsables, qui comprennent aujourd'hui que nous sommes un parti national au service de ce pays et une force politique, économique et sociale importante. Pour la première fois depuis 1956, nous sommes d'accord sur la scène politique à l'occasion des élections de novembre. J'ai été étonné de retrouver la même réceptivité, après tant d'années d'absence, du PCJ.

L.J.: Quelle est la position du PC à l'égard de la Charte nationale promise par le roi?

Y.Z.: Nous pensons, fondamentalement, qu'elle n'est pas nécessaire. Le retour à la Constitution suffit. Cependant, si le roi la souhaite et que, comme il le rappelle récemment dans les colonnes de votre journal, toutes les forces politiques y sont associées, nous participerons à son élaboration.

L.J.: Vous n'êtes-ils pas sollicités?

Y.Z.: Pas encore. Mais on m'a dit jeudi qu'il me sera proposé de me joindre à la discussion.

L.J.: Quelle sera votre stratégie, si le PC est légalisé?

Y.Z.: Toujours la même. Nous lutterons pour le plein emploi, une meilleure éducation, la défense et le renforcement de la démocratie, contre la corruption et la crise... Nous défendrons les entreprises nationales, Y compris le secteur privé, pourvu

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Koor workers step up protests

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thousands of factory workers from the troubled Koor Industries conglomerate blocked highways Thursday in a strike to protest proposals to sell the company to American or Canadian investors.

Police were dispatched to several plants, where workers formed picket lines and parked trucks across roads to dramatize their objections to foreign bids for the company.

Traffic was snarled near Koor factories on several northern roads and on the Tel Aviv-Haifa coastal highway, Israel radio said.

Violence was reported in the one-day strike, and there were no arrests, police said.

"We want to make the public aware of our situation," Yossi Zemach, head of the Koor workers' committee, told the Associated Press. "We are against the selling of Koor to foreigners."

Zemach argued that 9,000 Koor workers already have lost jobs and that many of the remaining 22,000 employees have taken pay cuts and agreed to higher productivity demands.

"We don't want such a large concern sold like a grocery store or a corner kiosk," Zemach said. "We know that private hands will be bad for us. They will make easy profits at our expense."

He called for the government and Israeli banks to step in with aid for Koor, which is owned by Israel's Histadrut labour federation.

Zemach estimated that more than 11,000 workers from 58 Koor factories participated in Thursday's strike. Workers from Koor's largest subsidiary, the Tadiran military and consumer electronics firm, did not walk out, he said.

It was the second labour action this week against Koor.

On Tuesday, hundreds of workers blocked roads and clashed with mounted police in northern Israel after the closing of a Koor-owned pipe factory where 150 jobs were lost.

Koor has been in financial crisis since October 1988, when the conglomerate defaulted on \$20 million in loans made to an American subsidiary by Bankers Trust Co. of New York.

A financial rescue package worked out by the government and both foreign and Israeli banks was never fully implemented, and Koor has been forced to postpone interest payments on some of its \$950 million debt.

Last week, two bids were submitted for the ailing giant.

The Belzberg family of Canada offered \$130 million for Koor.

and the Shamrock Corp. of Massachusetts offered to purchase 51 per cent of Koor's stock, reportedly for more than \$100 million.

Details of the bids have been kept secret.

Koor has asked a \$50 million cash infusion from the government and has proposed that banks write off \$225 million of its debt. Foreign banks rejected the request.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres of the left-leaning Labour Party held an emergency session with Koor executives and bank chairmen Wednesday night, concerned that failure of Israel's largest company could add to already troubling unemployment of more than eight per cent. In

addition, some of Koor's subsidiaries are heavily involved in military production.

Peres told Israel radio Thursday that the foreign bids and an internal solution were under consideration.

"In the near future, we will be able to decide which of the two is preferable for the Israeli economy and will ensure that Koor can continue to operate," Peres said.

Histadrut chairman Israel Kessar told Israel radio he was concerned about "the plight of the workers." But he also was critical of a foreign buyout, saying "people shouldn't think they can come for an end-of-the-season sale and get things half price."

'Remember Third World'

BONN (R) — West German statesman Willy Brandt called Thursday for Western industrialized nations not to let support of Eastern Europe affect aid to the Third World.

Brandt, who won the Nobel peace prize in 1971 for efforts to improve relations with communist countries, said it would be fateful if credits now being offered to the reforming East Bloc meant that less money would go to poor developing nations.

"We have no choice," he told a news conference after a meeting of the so-called Brandt Commission on North-South problems. "It is important to help both regions."

Brandt, who in 1978 published a milestone report on the gap between the industrialized North and the developing South, said North-South problems worsened in the past decade.

The former Social Democratic

chancellor held out hope that shrinking defence budgets would free funds for projects to save the environment and invest in poor nations.

The situation had improved in parts of Asia, but in general the 1980s were "a lost decade for development," Brandt said.

More people were starving today in black Africa than 10 years ago. In Latin America, the debt crisis continued to threaten democracies burdened by interest payments, he said.

In the early 1980s, industrialized nations pumped \$50 billion a year into the Third World, but today poor nations pay roughly the same amount to the rich world, Brandt said.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal, who also attended the meeting, said things were made worse by falling raw materials prices and the fact that the North-South dialogue was practically dead.

Sweden to count green cost in gross domestic product

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden plans to count the loss of natural resources alongside its official gross domestic product (GDP) — a move a leading ecologist described as a breakthrough comparable to the discovery that the earth is round.

The finance ministry has said it would produce a report aimed at evaluating in hard cash the depletion of natural resources to complement the official GDP account.

GDP, which measures the value of goods and services produced by a country over a given period, is generally thought to reflect a nation's success and wellbeing.

"But this is incorrect," Lars Heikensten, head of the ministry's medium-term economic planning, said. "You can have everything you need materially but still feel deprived or live in a poor environment."

For example, car production and highway construction are al-

ways measured in plus terms for the economy without regard for their effects on nature.

Cutting down forests and mining ore may boost a country's GDP but could cause permanent soil erosion which is not at present quantified.

Heikensten told Reuters the first step towards evaluating environmental factors would be to measure the permanent loss of natural resources such as trees and ore, by commissioning figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics.

But Anders Wijkman, general secretary of the Swedish Nature Protection Federation, likened the ministry's move in importance to the discovery that the earth is round.

"It is as if we lived in two different worlds," said Wijkman, noting that economists, politicians and companies spoke of wages, profits and GDP growth, while ecologists focused on dying lakes and forests.

THE BETTER HALF.

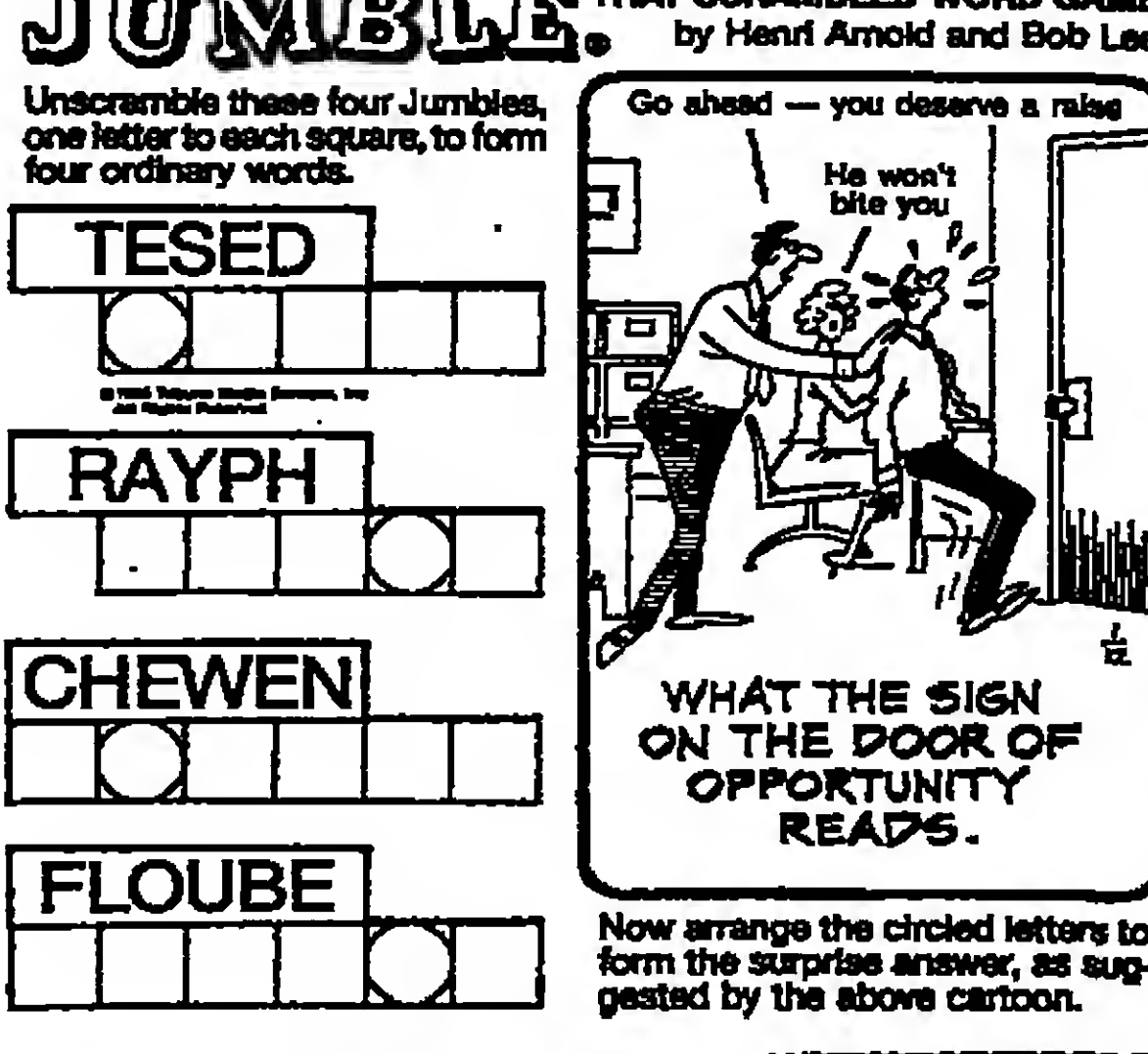
By Harris



"We used to fit together like peanut butter and jelly. Now it's more like chili and antacid."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: "CREEK ALBUM SHERRY MIDWAY" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CREEK ALBUM SHERRY MIDWAY Answer: What the bookkeeper said on an unusually hot day — IT'S "SWARM" HERE

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

IJLTC approves budget, 90 plan

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — The General Assembly of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) has approved a working plan for 1990 and the company's budget, according to Transport Minister Ibrahim Ayoub. Ayoub said that the assembly meeting was co-chaired by himself and his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammad Zubeidi, with whom he held talks on various matters related to promoting bilateral cooperation in transport fields. Earlier, an official said that the IJLTC collected JD 1.75 million profit from its operations in the past year, up from JD 1 million in 1988. The company which was established in 1980 with a \$50 million capital owns 900 trucks for its operations between Jordan and Iraq and between the two countries and the Arab World. According to company officials, the company so far has transported nearly nine million tonnes of goods and made profits estimated at JD 8.7 million shared equally by Jordan and Iraq. Last November, Jordan and Iraq signed an agreement on transportation of goods and passengers by land. The agreement aims to further facilitate transportation and also provides for exception of Iraqi and Jordanian nationals from entry fees.

Boeing to slash up to 5,000 workers

SEATTLE (AP) — The Boeing Co. expects to slash its workforce by as many as 5,000 employees this year, reflecting uncertainty over the defence budget and the future of a new plane still on the drawing board. Boeing said 1,700 hourly employees would be laid off by April, 1,400 of whom work at the company's Everett plant in the Puget Sound area, where production start-up for the new 747-400 Jumbo jet has been completed. Attrition should account for about half the total reduction, the company said in a news release. Boeing did not provide details on where the remainder of cuts would come from. "Because the new 777 airplane program is still not formally approved and with uncertainties in the defence budget, Boeing will continue to review and revise its workforce requirements throughout the year," the company said. The 777 jet is new Boeing model still in the planning stages. At the end of 1989, Boeing had 145,200 employees nationwide, up 10,800 from the beginning of the year.

Japanese enter Hungarian car market

BUDAPEST (R) — Japanese vehicle-makers plan a drive into the Hungarian market, where 400,000 people are on the waiting list for cars. The Suzuki Motor Co. has signed a basic agreement to form a joint venture for the manufacture of cars in Hungary. Japanese trading company C. Itoh, a Hungarian consortium and an agency of the World Bank will build a \$140 million car plant at Esztergom, an old city on the Danube north of Budapest. It is scheduled to start production of Suzuki Swift compact cars 1992. Hungary, which has a population of 10.6 million, has no carmaker of its own. There is a waiting list of 400,000 customers, but only 120,000 cars a year are imported from member countries of the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon. Imports of Western cars were liberalised in 1989 but drained Hungary's limited hard-currency reserves. The plant will produce the Swift for sale both in Hungary and for export.

National Australia Bank buys Yorkshire Bank for a record price

LONDON (R) — National Australia Bank (NAB) agreed to pay a record sum for a British bank Thursday, snapping up Yorkshire Bank for almost £1 billion (\$1.65 billion).

Yorkshire is one of Britain's most profitable banks and has a network of about 250 branches, mainly in northern and central England.

The sale was announced by Yorkshire's four joint owners — National Westminster Bank (40 per cent), Barclays Bank (32 per cent), Lloyds Bank (20 per cent) and the Royal Bank of Scotland (eight per cent).

NAB, one of Australia's big four retail banks, will pay £976.5 million (\$1.6 billion) in cash plus interest for Yorkshire, taking the total up to about £1 billion.

NAB chairman Sir Rupert Clarke said: "We are delighted to acquire Yorkshire Bank. Its acquisition represents another important step in the development of our group's U.K. operations." NAB already owns three banks in Scotland and Ireland — Clydesdale Bank, Northern Bank and National Irish Bank — which it bought in 1987.

Yorkshire's shareholders put the bank up for sale last October, saying it made no sense for it to be owned by a group of competitors.

Commenting on NAB's overall strategy, managing director Nobby Clark said: "We don't want to muscle in with the major banks in most parts of the world. We want to play a quiet regional game."

Analysts said the sale was a good deal for NAB as Yorkshire's operations would dovetail with the Clydesdale Bank just across the border in Scotland.

After the deal goes through, NAB will become Britain's seventh largest retail bank.

Yorkshire Bank made 1989 pre-tax profits of £113 million (\$196 million), up from £100 million (\$165 million) in 1988. It had net assets of £4 billion (\$6.6 billion).

White House sees justification to cut U.S. interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House broke with its usual practice of not commenting on Federal Reserve (Fed) policy Thursday by suggesting that cuts in interest rates "are justified" by current economic conditions.

Presidential Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the Jan. 8 reduction in the prime rate by banks, to 10 per cent from 10.5 per cent, "hasn't been totally passed through" and that the administration hoped it would be.

Although it has engaged in more subtle forms of credit easing, the Fed, or central bank, has not changed its bellwether discount rate — the rate for short-term loans it charges to banks and other financial institutions — for nearly a year.

Asked whether the administration was intentionally sending a message to the independent central bank from the White House briefing room, Fitzwater said: "This is not a new message. But it's important occasionally to point out that lower interest rates are normally good for the economy."

His comments came amid reports that momentum for easing interest rates at the Fed may have ended.

Fitzwater said recent economic reports argue for an easier credit policy.

Fitzwater, in particular, said Thursday's report by the Commerce Department that housing starts fell by eight per cent in December was "not good news."

"That's the best indicator we have. I mean, housing starts are more responsive to interest rates than anything else," he said.

Fitzwater said Bush will tell the National Association of Homebuilders in Atlanta Friday that "interest rates are going down."

The president will also tell his audience "we hope" lower rates "will be translated into increased market sales and that he always favoured lower interest rates and we still do."

Fitzwater also reacted to an article in Thursday's editions of the Wall Street Journal quoting two Fed members. Vice Chairman Mervyn D. Kaminsky and Wayne Angell, as indicating that lower interest rates were not likely in the near future.

"We're hopeful that they (the Fed) will take a look at this morning's indicators and understand that these numbers are low and indicate that inflation has remained very steady over the last seven or eight years and that lower interest rates are justified," the spokesman said.

The article said the comments of the two Fed members — who have led the move for lower interest rates in recent months — made further easing by the Fed unlikely for now.

Although the Fed has got lowered the discount rate since last February, it has engaged in financial fine-tuning since last June that has relieved pressure on interest rates.

The most recent was action last Dec. 20 in supplying extra reserves to the banking system that enabled banks to lower the rate they charge each other for overnight loans — the so-called federal funds rate — to 8.25 per cent from 9.25 per cent.

To further bolster the administration's case that interest rates should be further lowered, Fitzwater cited the Labour Department's Thursday report that showed inflation had grown a moderate 0.4 per cent in December, and had increased by 4.6 per cent for all of 1989.

Although it was the highest annual increase since 1981, Bush said the CPI report showed in general that "inflation is low and under control."

Asked whether Bush had spoken to Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan recently on the subject of interest rates, Fitzwater said: "He has spoken to him so often, I'm not sure that's relevant."

David Berson, an economist for the Federal National Mortgage Association, said White House jawboning of the Fed is to be expected.

"Every administration wants lower interest rates," he said. "I don't think the current administration is different from any administration."

Furthermore, he said he did not think the low housing start figure was evidence of any basic weakness in housing. "It's evidence only that we had very bad weather in December," he said.

'Greece is broke'

ATHENS (R) — Greece is broke, conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis proclaimed Thursday, launching his campaign for a third general election in less than a year.

"Greeks must know the truth about the magnitude of the present economic crisis. We are broke," Mitsotakis told New Democracy Party deputies.

"The time for truth has come. Even if we are forced to print inflationary money it will not be enough," he declared.

The party platform for the election, called on his demand, would be that Greece was out of money after eight years of socialist rule.

New Democracy won elections in June and November but fell short of an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament.

Since November, Greece has been ruled by an all-party coalition supported both by Mitsotakis and his socialist rival, former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

"Greece needs to be ruled by a strong government which will take immediate decisions and implement them. Coalition governments act very slowly and the problems cannot wait," Mitsotakis said.

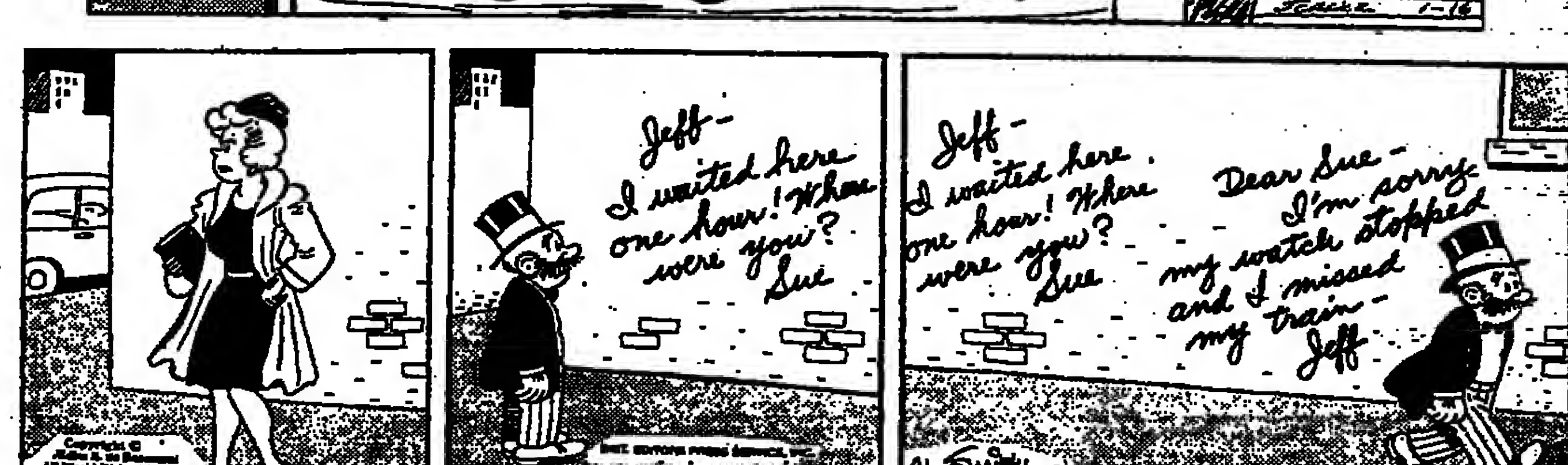
Mitsotakis said the Papandreu administration from 1981 until June was responsible for the state of the economy. He said socialism had failed as an economic model all over the Europe.

His party wants drastic cuts in state spending to control a budget deficit of more than two trillion drachmas (\$12.5 billion) which he says will soar above three trillion in 1990.

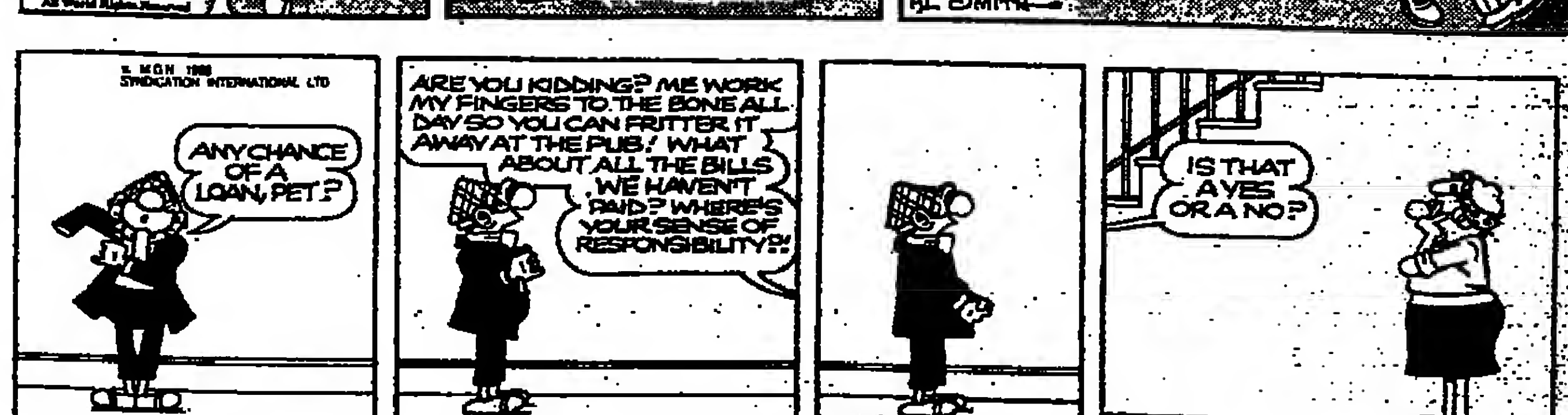
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSH
© 1989, Jordan Times Syndicate Inc.

POWER AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

Both vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
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♠ A K 4 2	♥ A Q 2	♦ A J 6	♣ A J 5
♠ A K 4 2	♥ A Q 2	♦ A J 6	♣ A J 5
♠ A K 4 2	♥ A Q 2	♦ A J 6	♣ A J 5

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

When experts clash, anything can

happen. Watch the play and defense

on this hand from a strong duplicate

event.

South's sequence showed a balanced

hand of 23-24 points. North's

six-card diamond suit headed by a

high honor more than warranted a

raise to game.

Lords to lead from an honor.

West attacked with the ten of

spades. East showed appreciation

by covering with the jack, taken by

declarer's king. The diamond suit

had to be established, and declarer

knew how to go about that—cash

the ace and duck a diamond to

guard against a 3-1 split.

When declarer played the ace,

West dropped the nine. Declarer

followed with the jack and, without

a moment's hesitation, West fol-

lowed with the ten. West knew that

if declarer ran the jack, the play

would blow a trick, but obviously

one trick would not make or break

the contract.

Look at the hand from declarer's

point of view. If West held Q 10 9 of

diamonds, the defender could have

guaranteed a diamond trick by cov-

ering the jack. He decided, there-

fore, that East surely had the queen,

and it was going to drop when dum-

my's lung was played. So, in an

effort to make a critical over-

turn, up went the monarch and down

went the contract. When East

showed out on the diamond, declar-

er was held to two diamond tricks

rather than five. As a result of why

defense, declarer had to be satisfied

with six tricks rather than the 10

which were his due had he followed

through with his original plan.

AC's form worries Maradona

EUROPEAN champions AC Milan, who beat Atalanta 3-1 with a Marco van Basten hat-trick on Wednesday, are worrying even Diego Maradona as they edge up the Italian soccer league.

"Milan is the team to beat. Three goals against Atalanta? That wasn't easy. They keep storming through, and that worries me," the Argentine world cup captain said after helping leaders Napoli to a tight 1-0 victory at home to Cesena.

Fourth-placed AC Milan have the chance to further close the gap on Napoli—at present three points although with a game in hand—when they face relegation haunted Udinese on Sunday.

But Napoli, seeking their second first division title, are expected to take both points at home against bottom side Verona.

European footballer of the year van Basten said of his three goals: "They were all beautiful. First because they make your team win and second because you scored them."

Playing despite a badly-bruised knee, Maradona set up the goal against Cesena and was praised by coach Alberto Bigon.

"Maradona performed his usual miracle and played with incredible self-sacrifice," Bigon said.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN:

McEnroe keeps cool, Lendl struggles

By Robert Kitson
Reuters

MELBOURNE, Australia — John McEnroe stayed calm in testing conditions to beat fellow American Dan Goldie on Friday as he maintained his disciplined push towards his first grand slam title for five years.

The three-time Wimbledon champion overpowered Goldie 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to move into the last 16 of the Australian Open but was more impressed with the way he ignored noisy spectators and the heat than with his actual form.

"I felt like I did a good job keeping my cool," said McEnroe, who was irritated by shouts from the crowd before and during points.

"A lot of people were yelling but I just told myself that my opponent was getting just as annoyed as I was. I was pleased I was able to keep my concentration in awkward circumstances."

World number one Ivan Lendl lost the second set, and nearly the third, against fellow Czechoslovak Karel Novacek before changing racquets and overpowering his tiring rival 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. Lendl's opposite number in the

women's game, Steffi Graf, hit herself on the head with her racket early in her third round match against Leila Meskhi.

The mishit forehand led the defending champion to drop her serve and fall 3-1 behind but she recovered to win 6-4, 6-1.

Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, seeded fifth, lost 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 to American Patty Fendick and 11th-seeded American Pam

Shriver became the fourth women's seed to be ousted when she was beaten by Japan's Kimiko Date 6-4, 6-5.

Wearing a lime-green bandana and with white zinc cream smeared over his nose and mouth to counter the hot sun, McEnroe admitted he was prepared to look stupid if it helped him win the tournament.

Queen Alia prizes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The winning tickets for the Queen Alia Show-jumping Championships lottery were drawn by HRH Ra'd Ben Zeid Friday evening at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

The showjumping championships were held at the Arabian Horse Club on Jan. 4th and 5th. The proceeds from the lottery were donated to the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped.

The winning numbers are:

1st prize — 1174;
2nd — 561;
3rd — 183;
4th — 1423;
5th — 367;
6th — 1412;
7th — 351; and
8th — 1169.

All those who have the corresponding numbers are requested to bring their programme to the Public Relations Department of Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental to claim their prize.

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Becker 'would take drugs to stay at the top'

BONN (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker said Friday he would be prepared to take performance-enhancing drugs if other top tennis players took them and if doping was necessary to stay at the top.

The world number two, presently competing in the Australian Open in Melbourne, said in an interview with the West German magazine Sports that, while tennis was clean, he understood why many athletes in other sports resorted to doping.

"If Lendl kept beating me because he was taking steroids, I would take them too, I mean that," Becker was quoted as saying.

"I would try to make sure we were competing on an equal basis. That's what it's all about. Otherwise I would just pack it all in straight away."

Becker, whose statements are certain to disappoint officials and athletes trying to rid their sports of doping, said drugs were not a problem in tennis because players need a variety of qualities including strength, stamina speed, and mobility.

"There would be doping perhaps if you could take something for your mental strength," the 22-year-old West German said.

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For more information please call tel. 604791, Rabi' Zaytoun.

THE Daily Crossword by Cindy Schultz

ACROSS

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Yesterday's Puzzle Sheet:

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3 Highway lover

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13 Riddle-brown

14 "Cair de"

15 300 - last

16 Estimated

17 Race distance

18 Ethical

19 objection

20 Furniture

21 Smasher

22 Burden

23 Variegated

24 Flank

25 Type the code

26 2,001

27 4000

28 Shows glass

29 Pick-up-ups

30 Controls

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33 Low singer

34 School chores

35 Tabula -

36 Brother of Jacob

37 Aha

38 Article

39 Lawyer

40 abt.

NAF-NAF

NAF-NAF

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COMING TO AMERICA

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

RAGE TO KILL

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema NIJOUM Tel: 675571

BIG BUSINESS

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 674111

SPACE BALLS

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Entire Ceausescu clique under arrest in Romania

BUCHAREST (AP) — Romania's chief prosecutor says virtually the entire leadership of the Romanian Communist Party is under arrest, including the highest-ranking cronies of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu said in an interview published Friday in the newspaper *Adevărul* (Truth) that all but one of 21 former members of the once-ruling politburo were in custody, with the exception of Ceausescu and his wife Elena.

The Ceausescus were tried and shot Dec. 25 for genocide and sabotaging the economy.

Meanwhile, the National Salvation Front (NSF), the nation's provisional leadership, issued a public appeal Friday in the newspaper *Timetorul Liber* (Free Youth) calling on citizens not to hoard food or buy stolen foreign aid goods.

In another development, Defence Minister Nicolae Militaru threatened to stop the flow of electricity to some large industries, saying the country's energy supply was endangered by factories routinely using more than their allotted share of power.

Also, students went on strike Friday at Bucharest University's College of Architecture, demanding that 26 of the school's 82 professors be fired as incompetents who gained their positions through political connections during Ceausescu's rule.

On the prosecution of former high officials, Robu said that 31 former high-ranking officials have been arrested in all, including Ceausescu's playboy son Nicu.

The younger Ceausescu was the party chief in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu, and reportedly ordered the Securitate forces loyal to Ceausescu to open fire on demonstrators during the revolution that toppled his father Dec. 22. No date has been set for his trial.

Robu said most of the jailed Ceausescu figures were cooperating with investigators.

Those expected to be tried first are former Communist Party Secretary Emil Bobu, number three in the government behind Ceausescu and Elena, former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu, the official in charge of the Securitate, Ceausescu's special

police, and politburo members Manea Manescu and Ion Dinca.

Their trials on charges abetting genocide were expected to begin next week before a military tribunal. A similar military court sentenced Ceausescu and his wife to death Christmas Day after their conviction on charges of genocide and ruining Romania's national economy.

Robu said Ceausescu's daughter Zoia-Elena and another son, Valentin, were in jail but had not been leading figures in the ousted regime.

Bobu said Zoia-Elena had gone on a brief hunger strike in her first days in jail, refusing anything but coffee and smoking her own supply of American cigarettes.

"We told to her that she's living in exactly the same conditions that the Romanian people were subjected to, and she's adopted reasonable behaviour," Robu was quoted as saying in the interview.

The only politburo member not under arrest was Paul Niculescu, a more liberal official who is said to have offered his services to the revolutionary government.

Defence Minister Militaru wrote in a article published Friday in *Adevărul* that state-run factories in the metallurgical and chemical industries were over-drawing the power quotas by "thousands and thousands of kilowatts."

"Enterprises that draw too much power and do not obey the regulations will have their electricity shut down," he said in an article he wrote for *Adevărul*.

"It is important not to get to this point because production losses could have deep consequences on the economy and the people," said Militaru.

He said that last Tuesday, Romania's generating plants had to produce 300 extra megawatts of power to meet demand.

"Besides requiring costly supplementary supplies, the use of too much power is jeopardising the energy system," he said.

Under Ceausescu's rule, heating and electricity were strictly limited in public buildings and hundreds of thousands of state-owned apartments to conserve energy so that Romania could export oil.

Berry sues magazine over nude photos

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Rock 'n' roll pioneer Chuck Berry says pictures of him in the nude with female companions were stolen, and he is suing the magazine that published them for \$10 million. But the publisher of the magazine, *High Society*, said in New York Thursday that the pictures were purchased and the magazine has a signed release from the seller. Berry considered the photos his private property, attorney Melvin Belli said after he filed the lawsuit in San Francisco superior court. Berry, 63, said he had the photos taken because, "I've seen too many times when girls misused their relationship with Fellas. I wanted something to show everything was merry-merry." Berry and his companion are posing side by side in most of the photos. No sexual acts are depicted. Berry said the photos were stolen in September from his business office in St. Louis and he does not know who turned them over to *High Society*. The photos were printed without Berry's permission and the magazine ignored requests not to print them, said Paul Monzone, the attorney handling the lawsuit for the Belli firm. *High Society* publisher Gloria Leonard said: "We legitimately purchased those photos and we have a signed release from the party from whom we purchased it." Leonard refused to identify the seller. *High Society* runs many celebrity photos, and the magazine's attorneys are very scrupulous to ensure everything is checked out before publication, she said. "We felt that he was certainly an interesting character, an icon of American culture, and we never (meant) to hurt him in any way. We have great respect for him," she said.

Armenians recount terror, humiliation in Azeri capital

YEREVAN, Soviet Union (R) — Azeri thugs broke into the homes of elderly Armenians in Baku, dragged their occupants into the streets and herded them onto ferries out of Azerbaijan.

About 300 of the more than 10,000 Armenians who have left Azerbaijan since the latest violence erupted in the southern Soviet region are in Yerevan, northeast of the Armenian capital Yerevan.

Most tell the same story of gangs of youngsters who burst into their apartments in the Azerbaijani capital last Saturday and Sunday, destroyed their possessions and turned them out into the street.

At least 70 are still in hospital being treated for cuts, broken limbs and crushed ribs.

"Ten youths came into our flat while we were out and smashed everything," said Anna Babayan, 67, her face a mass of bruises. The attackers returned later, beat her and forced her out of her home.

"They tried to pull out my teeth," she said, displaying a double row of gold-capped teeth. "But I struggled and kicked and they were unable to do it."

She added: "I saw one woman trying to hold a blanket around her naked body as she was being dragged along the street."

Most Armenians were taken first to a cinema opposite Baku's main police station. From there they were dragged down to the city's docks to be put on a ferry across the Caspian Sea to the Soviet Republic of Turkmenia with neither coat nor shoes.

There was no food aboard the vessel, the refugees said, and Azerbaijani crew beat many of them during the 12-hour crossing.

All denied being "evacuated" from Baku — the operation, they say, was clearly a well-organised deportation.

"If it had been for our safety, why were we not allowed to take our coats, warm clothes or food?" said Babayan.

Yerevan has long had to deal with influxes of refugees during the past two years of conflict over the dispute territory of Nagorno-Karabakh — about 13,000 people have congregated at camps in the town.

Local officials decline to talk about reports that Armenians are organising themselves into brigades of "volunteers" to ward off what they say are imminent attacks by Azeri activists.

"We have the right to defend ourselves," said one official. "No one could call us aggressive."

Nikolai Davtyan, deputy rector of a Communist Party school in the Azerbaijani capital, was attacked by 50 men who burst into his Baku apartment Sunday morning and set upon him.

Covered in bruises and barely able to stand, he accused Azerbaijani's party leadership, including First Secretary Abdul Verizov, of complicity or at the very least passive acceptance of the violence.

"Verizov? No one listens to him and no one believes him," he said. "But the authorities knew full well what was happening."

Row erupts between Colombo, Amnesty

COLOMBO (AP) — Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne has called Amnesty International a terrorist organisation and accused the London-based human rights group of trying to destabilise his country.

Wijeratne, who also is deputy defence minister, said at his weekly news briefing: "Quote me. I declare Amnesty International another terrorist organisation cloaked in sheep's clothing which goes into countries to destabilise democratic government."

In London, Amnesty International denied the allegation.

"Amnesty International stands for human rights, not terror. We do not support or fund the activities of opposition groups anywhere in the world," said the London-based organisation, which campaigns worldwide for the release of non-violent political prisoners and the abolition of torture and capital punishment.

Amnesty International said it had given relief assistance over many years to victims of human rights violations in Sri Lanka, including recent legal work on behalf of victims of alleged human rights abuses.

This has been done through the Bar association of Sri Lanka, which took on such work after several lawyers had been killed or threatened with death because they undertook these cases, the statement said.

It rejected a suggestion that it had advised foreign government to discontinue aid to Sri Lanka.

Amnesty International has frequently criticised the Sri Lankan government, citing detailed allegations that its security forces have engaged in killings, torture and other human rights violations.

The government is battling a Sinhalese extremist group, the People's Liberation Front, and minority Tamil guerrillas in two separate, but related insurrections.

The Tamils have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland in northern Sri Lanka, a war that has killed an estimated 11,000 people. After the government signed a peace treaty with the Sinhalese extremists began assassinating government leaders and their supporters because they felt the government was making too many concessions to the Tamils.



Dalai Lama

'Time running out for Tibet'

NEW DELHI (R) — The Dalai Lama, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, was quoted Friday as saying time was running out for talks with China on a peaceful settlement of his homeland's future.

"If the Chinese government does not initiate a meaningful and sincere dialogue on the Tibetan issue within a year, I will be forced to change my present conciliatory stand," he told the *Times of India* newspaper in an interview.

"Time is running out," said the Dalai Lama, who so far has managed to restrain an increasingly vocal demand from young Tibetans in exile for a guerrilla war to free their homeland.

The Dalai Lama won the 1989 Nobel Prize, to the fury of Beijing, largely for his insistence on a non-violent campaign for an internally autonomous Tibet.

He told the newspaper there had been no significant progress on discussing his 1988 proposal, announced to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, for an autonomous Tibet whose foreign and defence policies would remain in Beijing's hands.

"This is because the Chinese, despite their willingness," always seems to find some excuse for delay," he said.

"My own suggestion that we take up negotiations in Hong Kong has not yet met with any official response," he said. "We do not want to approach the Chinese government unless they show some sincere gesture. And if they cannot accept for minimal requirement then there is not much to discuss."

Kashmir government resigns in protest

SRI NAGAR, India (R) — The embattled government of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, widely accused of incompetence in face of a mounting secessionist campaign, has resigned.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said Friday he quit because the new government in Delhi insulted him and appointed a new governor without consultation.

His resignation was likely to raise a sigh of relief in the new central government of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, which wanted Abdullah out but did not want to dismiss him because it had complained of such moves while in opposition.

Officials in Jammu, the state's winter capital, said a formal declaration was likely to be made later Friday that the Delhi-appointed governor would take over.

Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state, has fallen increasingly under the influence of militants demanding it become a part of Pakistan or reunite and independent.

More than 100 people have been killed in the secessionist campaign over the past 18 months

and in frequent, widely observed general strikes called by militants.

Abdullah's most difficult moment was in December when the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) kidnapped the daughter of Home (Interior) Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a Kashmiri. She was released five days later in exchange for five JKLF members.

Kashmir, the cause of two of India's three wars against Pakistan since both became independent of Britain in 1947, remains a source of bitterness between the two countries.

Islamabad, which controls one-third of the region, demands a referendum on Kashmir's future. Singh's government, which accuses Pakistan of backing the insurgency, has refused to shift from Delhi's long refusal to reopen the issue.

Abdullah said he submitted his resignation Thursday night.

"The home minister has been saying the state administration has collapsed, which is insulting," he said.

Sayeed had also demanded Indian army and paramilitary forces be given search and arrest powers.

ANC concedes setback against de Klerk move

LUSAKA (AP) — The African National Congress (ANC) has conceded it could not step up guerrilla actions inside South Africa and acknowledged the need to prepare itself for possible negotiations with the Pretoria government.

ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo warned fellow leaders meeting in Lusaka that the organisation risked being "caught off balance" by political reforms introduced by President F.W. de Klerk.

De Klerk was pushing ahead with reforms at a speed designed to outmanoeuvre the ANC and activists campaigning against the apartheid system of racial separation, Nzo said.

He was addressing the first session of a three-day gathering of the ANC national executive committee, the organisation's top policy-making body.

"Unless we act quickly we will surrender the initiative to Pretoria," he said.

South African Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said Thursday that the government would reassess the need to maintain bans on the ANC, the South African Communist Party and other militant opposition groups.

Coetsee's statement followed a defiant announcement Wednesday by the United Democratic Front that it would resume full-scale, overt operations. The front has been forced to operate clandestinely since February 1988, when it was among 17 groups prohibited from conducting any activities.

The ANC has repeatedly said it will not negotiate with de Klerk until its jailed leader Nelson Mandela is released, the organisation is unbanned, political trials are halted and troops are withdrawn from black townships.

In Lusaka, Nzo told conferees the ANC would continue waging guerrilla actions aimed at ending white-minority domination.

Among his listeners were eight leaders recently freed after serving long terms in South African prisons.

"The armed struggle must continue but looking at our situation realistically we must admit that we do not have the capacity within our country to intensify the struggle in any meaningful way," Nzo said.

The movement began a campaign of bombing and sabotage attacks in 1961.

Prince of Wales wins book award

LONDON (AP) — The Prince of Wales, author of a best-selling book about architecture, was named author of the year at the British Book Awards Thursday.

"A Vision of Britain," in which Prince Charles criticised modern architecture, has been in the list of best-sellers since it was published last year. American and Canadian editions of the book have sold very well, and it has been translated into Italian.

In the book, the prince said some modern architects replaced the traditions and harmonies of the past with "Frankenstein monsters, devoted of character, alien and largely unloved except by the professors who have been concocting these horrors in their laboratories."

Charles, 41-year-old heir to the British throne, won the first Author of the Year Award. It was accepted on his behalf by Christopher Martin, who produced a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary in which the prince guided viewers around some buildings he liked and many he didn't. The book also led to an exhibition at London's Victoria and Albert Museum which attracted 45,000 visitors — the museum's most popular event in 1989. In a videotaped acceptance speech to 500 authors and publishers, Charles said: "I couldn't have been more amazed that my name was included because when I entered this venture I had considerable cold feet about the result. I was much amused when I heard that the local bookshop in Windsor had a sign over the copies of the book which said 'local' author."

Not strictly true, but a good idea," Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, has a castle in Windsor.

Mongolia bans illegal demonstrations

BEIJING (R) — Mongolia's Communist authorities have banned all unauthorised demonstrations to prevent a newly formed opposition group from holding a rally in the capital, Ulan Bator, a resident of the city said Friday.

"The ban was broadcast on state radio and television on Thursday evening," said the resident, contacted by telephone from Beijing.

A People's Revolutionary Party official appeared on television and criticised the Mongolian Democratic Union, an unofficial alliance of workers and intellectuals that organised a rally of about 5,000 people in Ulan Bator last Sunday. Another rally was planned for Sunday in the city's main square.

Last Sunday's rally was the biggest in Mongolia's recent history and a Foreign Ministry official said earlier this week that the protest had the approval of the authorities.

The new regulations, announced by the Ulan Bator city authorities, banned all demonstrations in the city's main Sukhbaatar Square and several other places, including media organisations, the airport and the railway station.

Permission was needed for rallies to be held elsewhere, said the resident, who asked not to be identified.

"I'm not sure if the demonstration will go ahead. An important person has appeared on television. But younger people are not satisfied so the rally may go ahead," he said.

Mongolia is the latest country to feel the winds of change sweeping the Communist world. A vast and remote nation of two million people, it is closely allied to the Soviet Union and its leaders have embraced reforms with caution.

The "important person" was People's Revolutionary Party ideology chief D. Tshilzhin, who, the resident said, accused the opposition group of following Western and East European ideas.

He called on people to support the ruling party and promised further reforms.

The official party newspaper *Unen* also criticised the opposition union Friday, the resident said.

Washington mayor arrested on drug charge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mayor Marion Barry, his last years in office blackened by accusations of cocaine use, was arrested on a drug charge Thursday night in what federal authorities described as "an ongoing public corruption probe."

The arrest at a downtown hotel came just three days before Barry planned to formally announce that he would seek reelection to a fourth term as mayor of the capital city of the United States. It also came the day before long-time Barry associate Charles Lewis was scheduled for sentencing on drug charges.

Lewis has testified in federal court that he provided cocaine for the mayor, but it was not clear whether Thursday night's arrest was connected to the Lewis investigation.

Barry has steadfastly denied that he used drugs.

The U.S. attorney's office said Barry was to appear before a federal magistrate on unspecified drug charges Friday.

A federal law enforcement source who asked not to be identified said the arrest was the result of a "sting" operation in which Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents kept under observation a prearranged meeting between the mayor and an unidentified friend in a downtown hotel, the *Vista International*, about six blocks from the White House.

Barry, 53, was arrested at the hotel shortly after 8 p.m. (10:00 GMT Friday) as a result of an undercover operation conducted jointly by the city police department's internal affairs division and the FBI, according to a statement by U.S. attorney Jay Stephens and Thomas Duhaime, special agent in charge of the FBI's Washington Office. There was no word of additional arrests.

First word of the arrest was broadcast late Thursday night by television station WRC, which said the mayor attempted to buy cocaine on the seventh floor.

The mayor was led away by undercover police officers and FBI agents, the station said, and his driver and bodyguard were led away separately.

Barry, who has repeatedly won reelection with large majorities, has lost support over the past four years because of allegations he used drugs, and because of the

corruption convictions against several members of his administration.

Former Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, a well-known civil rights leader, fuelled speculation that he would challenge Barry when he moved to Washington last year. However, Jackson has said repeatedly that he would not challenge Barry. Jackson said through a spokesman he would have no comment on the arrest.

Drugs, use among the city's young men is blamed for a sharply rising murder rate — a record 438 homicides were committed last year against 369 the year before.

Top city officials were meeting late Thursday night to assess the arrest. City Council Chairman David Clarke, who is running for mayor, called the arrest "a tragic moment in our city's history."

Councilwoman Charlene Jarvis, another mayoral candidate, said the arrest "changes the political landscape of the city."

Although rumours about Barry and drugs had surfaced throughout the last half of his tenure as mayor, no charges had been

brought before Thursday.

The accusations became even more widespread after the arrest of Lewis.

Barry was visiting Lewis' hotel room in December 1988 when city police were sent to investigate a report that Lewis was selling drugs. When the officers found out Barry present, they abandoned their mission in an episode not yet fully explained.

Lewis pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine in Washington, and was scheduled to be sentenced on that charge Friday. Lewis also has been convicted of selling drugs in the Virgin Islands.

In November, a U.S. television station, WUSA, said a local physician had reported to police that Barry had been treated for a drug overdose in 1983. The then-police chief later reported that investigators were unable to confirm that report.

Karen Johnson, a former city worker with whom Barry eventually admitted a romance, was convicted on various drug charges in 1984. She served several months in prison for refusing to testify about Barry.

Coffee lovers love better, study claims

ROYAL OAK, Michigan (AP) — Older couples who drink coffee appear to be more sexually active than elderly non-coffee drinkers, according to a new study.

In response to a survey, 62 per cent of married women 60 and older who drank coffee said they were sexually active. Forty per cent of women older than 60 who do not drink coffee said they were active.

Among married men the same ages, 36 per cent of coffee drinkers said they sometimes were impotent, compared with 59 per cent of those who do not drink coffee.

The study in the January issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine* did not give a

margin of error or date for the survey of 744 Michigan residents done by Dr. Ananias Diokno of William Beaumont Hospital in the Detroit suburb of Royal Oak.

Diokno, attempting to explain the results, said coffee stimulates the central nervous system and relaxes certain muscles. But he said it also was possible that people who drink coffee also happen to be "more liberal in their sexual behaviour."

"We want to pursue this and find out why there is this connection between sex and coffee," he said.

The study team did not ask participants whether they drank regular or decaffeinated

coffee or how much they drank, Diokno said.

Some researchers were sceptical of the findings.

"Oh, Lord help us, now they've linked coffee and sex," said Gail Keshner Riggs, associate director of restorative medicine at the University of Arizona's College of Medicine, who has done her own research on sex among elderly women.

"Dr. Diokno is a respected researcher," said Dr. Tom Stanicic, a professor of surgery and urology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson. "But before anyone starts drinking coffee to boost their sex life, it would be wise if other people looked

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06	41	48 Cloudy
ATHENS	02	26	15 Clear
BAHRAIN	11	22	14 57 Cloudy
BANGKOK	23	73	31 Clear
BENIN	15	59	27 80 Clear
BOMBAY	08	49	19 88 Cloudy
CARACAS	01	31	02 39 Rain
CHICAGO	02	38	07 45 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	00	32	02 45 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	03	37	08 43 Clear
GENEVA	05	41	11 52 Cloudy
HONG KONG	16	61	17 83 Rain
ISTANBUL	05	41	11 52 Cloudy
LONDON	07	45	11 52 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	08	48	16 81 Cloudy
MADRID	00	32	12 54 Cloudy
MECCA	13	55	27 81 Cloudy
MONTREAL	11	12	06 21 Cloudy
MOSCOW	12	54	15 87 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	12	54	28 82 Clear
NEW YORK	13	55	19 80 Rain
PARIS	03	38	10 50 Cloudy
ROME	08	48	16 81 Cloudy
SYDNEY	04	25	13 55 Clear
TOKYO	04	39	08 46 Clear
VIENNA	04	39	08 46 Cloudy